



NEW WAVE OF BOMB THREATS

Report by Richard Guttridge

MORE bomb threats were made to Black Country schools on Monday, which led to a Halesowen school again being evacuated.

Calls were made to the Oldbury Academy, Perryfields High School in Oldbury, Holly Lodge School in Smethwick and Leasowes High School in Halesowen. Three schools in Birmingham were also targeted.

Unlike previous weeks Oldbury Academy was not evacuated, after acting headteacher Philip Shackleton was told by police that the threat was not credible.

The Pound Road school has been disrupted by such calls for the last four weeks and Mr Shackleton had said he would only evacuate if there was a credible threat.

It is the fifth time since January 19 that hoax calls have been made to schools in Sandwell and Dudley.

Leasowes High School was evacuated with pupils either being sent home or to its Greenhill campus. The schools targeted in Birmingham were Edgbaston High School for Girls, King David and King Edward's boys schools.

Terrorism

West Midlands Police Chief Superintendent Matt Ward said: "The details of the latest calls have been relayed to the South West Counter Terrorism Unit, which is the national lead for these linked alerts. We will continue to support their ongoing, thorough, lengthy investigation.

"The decision to evacuate or not remains with the school on the basis of their individual plans in place to deal with a range of emergencies and our advice that these are hoaxes."

He added: "We fully support headteachers whatever they decide in this difficult situation."

The latest threats come despite two arrests made by police. A boy and a girl, both aged 14, have been questioned in relation to calls made to Great Barr School and Wednesbury Ormiston Academy.

It has also been revealed that bomb hoaxes targeting schools may be coming from overseas. This has prompted a national investigation, said West Midlands Chief Constable David Thompson.

He told the Strategic Police and Crime Board: "This is a national investigation and it's very possible that they have been emanating from overseas. We are pretty good at evaluating the credibility of threats."

"What I have to say about the evacuations of schools is that is a decision which comes from the headteachers. I would ask headteachers to consider the totality and to have some comfort in our ability to evaluate the threat. I am not criticising them in any way, but I cannot be certain that this will desist any time in the future."

AWARD FOR MOTHER'S 'GUARDIAN ANGEL' MIDWIFE



Midwife of the Year Claire South, left, and Archie with his mother Lucy Goodway, from Halesowen, who Claire helped through heartbreak and joy

A DEDICATED midwife in Dudley has won a top award for being a 'guardian angel'.

Claire South, who has worked for the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust for 11 years, has been named Midwife of the Year for the Midlands and East region.

The 33-year-old was nominated by Lucy Goodway who was helped by Claire through both heartache and joy during two pregnancies.

Claire won the Emma's Diary Mums' Midwife of the Year 2016 prize, part of the Royal College of Midwives' Midwifery Awards.

At 37 weeks in July 2014, Claire sadly discovered Lucy's baby had no heartbeat. Two days later Lucy, from Halesowen, delivered a baby boy, Jack William Goodway. Claire remained by 35-year-old Lucy's side in the days after the stillbirth to remember baby Jack and support her family through their grief.

Seven weeks later Lucy discovered she was pregnant again but was terrified about what was to come. It was Claire's support and encouragement that got her through the pregnancy and in June 2015, Lucy gave birth to a baby boy who she named Archie Jack Good-

way, after his brother. She also has a daughter, Nell, who is three and a half.

Lucy said: "Claire has been my guardian angel twice. When I lost my beautiful little boy at 37 weeks, she was there for me every single day - holding my hand, always knowing what to say, and giving me hope for the future. And then she was there for me again a few months later. I was a nervous wreck but she was so kind, calm and supported me every step of the way."

"I am now lucky enough to call her my friend."

ACCIDENT

Injured rider, 16, is named by police

POLICE have named a teenage moped rider left in a critical condition after a traffic accident in Rowley Regis.

Declan Osborne, aged 16, was knocked over by a Honda Civic in Macmillan Road, on January 30. The driver left the scene before police arrived. A 24-year-old man was arrested last week and released on bail until March 30.

Declan's family said in a statement: "We are devastated about what has happened. We would like to thank the people who helped Declan." Anyone with information should call West Midlands Police on 101.

SALE

Labour Club is put back up for auction

CRADLEY Heath Labour Club, which closed last August after more than 90 years, is to go back up for auction after previously failing to sell.

The Graingers Lane venue will go under the hammer in a sale being held at Aston Villa Football Club on February 25. The guide price has come down from £180,000 to between £125,000 and £150,000.

There were no buyers when the venue was last put up for auction in October.

HOMES

Petition opposes housing scheme

MORE than 40 people have signed a petition against homes being built on the former Coseley Baths site.

Plans for a development comprising 24 homes have been lodged for the Pear Tree Lane site but people living nearby have raised a raft of complaints. These include concerns that the site is too small for the amount of houses that are proposed and the potential for a loss of light and privacy to existing homes.

A petition with 42 signatures has been handed in to Dudley Council. Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden has also written to the authority.

INSIDE

TAKE A PEAKY AT MUSEUM



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He always tackles the hot topics head-on

£500k bill after firm's acid cloud leak

A CHEMICAL company where an explosion sent an acid gas cloud sweeping across its neighbours has been ordered to pay almost £500,000.

Solvay Solutions UK did not properly check a piece of equipment that broke in a 'catastrophic' failure.

A ground hugging white haze billowed from its factory in Trinity Street, Oldbury Those caught in the mist found it difficult to breathe and had streaming eyes, the court heard.

As a result, the firm has been hit with a £333,000 fine and £110,000 costs at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Police toured the area warning people to stay

indoors, a supermarket was forced to shut and streets were closed including a slip road to the M5.

"It was an alarming experience and produced physical effects but not long lasting effects," said Mr James Puzey, prosecuting.

Blast

Only 15 of the 250-strong workforce were on duty when disaster struck at noon on January 2, 2009, as it was a public holiday.

Flames flared from a phosphine converter when a metal bar broke and a valve was jammed open by the blast, allowing phosphine gas to leak and combine with air creating phosphoric acid. The leak

could not be plugged for 90 minutes by which time 564 kilos of phosphoric acid had been released, the court heard.

Mr Stephen Hockman QC, defending, said: "This is a very reputable organisation that has never been in front of any court before. It is very sorry and has done its best to make amend."

The company pleaded guilty to two charges of failing to ensure the health and safety of their employees and others.

Jean-Francois Berthiaume, director of Solvay Solutions UK, has said all recommendations made by the Health and Safety Executive have been put in place.

Mother who left children alone in flat is released

A MOTHER who was jailed after leaving her two young children home alone while she went to work will be released after winning an appeal.

The 24-year-old, from Dudley who cannot be named for legal reasons, left the children alone in her flat for eight hours.

When the alarm was raised, they were found in a state of 'chaos', the Court of Appeal heard. A three-year-old was naked and covered in paint, while his one-year-old sister did not have a nappy and had no access to milk.

The mother said she had expected a friend to look after the kids, but had been let down and had to leave them.

She pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to two counts of child cruelty and was jailed for 24 weeks in December. However, after an appeal by her lawyers, her sentence was reduced to 16 weeks, meaning she was due for release last week.

"There was no evidence of any long-term harm," said Mrs Justice Thirlwall.

"On the contrary, the children were, at the time of the offence, healthy and well cared for. There was real remorse and real regret for what she had done."

The court heard the mother had left the children around midday last March and did not return until the evening. A workman in the block had become concerned about noises from inside the flat.

The children, who were unharmed, had since been taken in by another member of the family, but the mother had regular contact, the judge said.

Thug jailed for knife attack on ex-partner

A THUG who savagely attacked his partner when she ended their five-year relationship because of his violent behaviour has been jailed for one year and nine months.

Three days after the split, Lee Astley burst into the Halesowen house they had shared and broke ornaments before grabbing a large knife from the kitchen and hurling it at the terrified woman, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The blade gouged a deep cut in her thigh and she bled heavily while making a frantic phone call for help to the emergency services as she fled upstairs, said Miss Sarah Allen, prosecuting.

Furious Astley gave chase, kicked open the door to the bedroom where she was hiding and launched another brutal attack. The 33-year-old repeatedly punched her to the head and body.

Smashed

He then picked up her mobile phone and smashed it to pieces but a 999 operator had heard part of his onslaught on the line when the woman's call for help was interrupted by his arrival upstairs.

The victim was taken to hospital with cuts and bruises on her body and head and the deep wound on her thigh. Astley was arrested soon afterwards. His former partner told police: "I felt like a slave to him. He terrified and abused me."

Two days after the split he phoned to reveal he was in hospital after taking an overdose. She went to see him before returning to the house they had shared, where the attack took place the following day, October 2.

Miss Blondelle Thompson, defending, pointed out that the victim had been convicted of assaulting Astley in 2011. She continued: "They were a couple who drank a lot. He had problems and lashed out in frustration when he was unable to express himself in situations such as the break up. They now know, if they didn't know before, that the relationship was not a healthy one and it is best if they do not live together."

Astley, of Teme Road, pleaded guilty to wounding and was jailed by Recorder Stephen Thomas.

First look at new flamingo home



An artist's impression of the new Flamingo Falls exhibit, one of several projects at Dudley Zoo

DUDLEY Zoo has revealed the first look at its new Flamingo Falls exhibit – one of three enclosures in line for a revamp costing £200,000.

The existing flamingo enclosure is being enhanced to create a much bigger pool and a larger indoor area with a viewing area.

Bosses at the Castle Hill attraction have also revealed details of major work to develop the home for its breeding group of gelada baboons.

The third project is to create an interactive walk-through exhibit where visitors can feed dozens of yellow-backed chattering lorikeets, birds which are vulnerable in the wild.

During the first month of 2016, 4,504 visitors came through the turnstiles of the 40-acre site – 189 more than last year.

They were the best January figures for five years and probably boosted by the free return ticket deal during January and February.

The £40,000 scheme to extend the baboon enclosure includes transforming a former shop into a walk-in viewing area. The paddock will be extended up the bank to provide more grazing area.

WI branch's first meeting success

HALESOWEN College has hosted the first formal meeting of the new Halesowen Women's Institute group – with more than 90 attending.

The group has gone from strength to strength since its first get-together in October. The Halesowen WI has events planned, such as pamper evenings and an adventure day.

Elaine Cammies, community participation director at Halesowen College, said: "We have been really amazed by the response and the numbers who have come along. We will be involving students in some of the activities, for example travel and tourism students helping to plan trips."

Meetings are on the first Wednesday each month at 6.30pm at Block 10 Halesowen College in Whittingham Road.

Big demand for Star Wars concerts

AN EXTRA performance has been added after a Star Wars themed classical concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall sold out. Star Wars and Beyond – a Space Spectacular on February 26 will be repeated on July 2 at 7.30pm by the London Concert Orchestra.

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Senior Muslim cleric will talk at UKIP conference

UKIP'S inaugural West Midlands party conference will feature a speech by a Muslim cleric.

Aqeel Ahmad, an imam at the Baitul Ghafor Mosque in Halesowen, will talk on behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association – AMA – at the event in Wolverhampton.

The event at Dunstall Park race-course on February 20 will also feature UKIP party leader Nigel Farage, who is set to lay out the case for Britain leaving the EU at a Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy group meeting following the conference.

The party's national disability spokesperson Councillor Star Anderton and Nathan Garrbutt of LGBT UKIP will also deliver presentations.

West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge said the range of speakers was 'one in the eye' for anyone accusing the party of bigotry.

"We are looking closely at what UKIP should stand for and inclusiveness is certainly something that we want to push," added Mr Etheridge, who is also set to deliver a conference speech.

"As a party we want to highlight the proud traditions of our region and show that there is no place for bigotry and intolerance under our banner. UKIP has an inclusive side that a lot of people probably don't recognise."

Wasim Shah, outreach coordinator for the West Birmingham Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, said the group would use the conference to promote the 'true teaching' of Islam as part of its campaign against extremism.

Pensioners hear from the experts

PENSIONERS were warned about the latest doorstep cons by crime prevention officer Sarah Nixon at their latest meeting.

She told the Halesowen branch of the West Midlands Pensioners' Convention about distraction burglaries and scams.

The pensioners spoke to health expert Michelle O'Meara about needs of the elderly and heard about neighbourhood watch from Amanda Taylor of West Midlands Police.

The next meeting is on Thursday, February 18, at the Shenstone Theatre above Halesowen Library at 10.30am. The guest speaker will be Birmingham University Professor Janet Lord, an expert on the immune system and how it is affected by age.

Gentle exercise for the over 50s

GENTLE exercise sessions for the over 50s are being held in Halesowen on Thursdays. Janet Ferris leads the classes at Providence Methodist Church from 10am to noon, £3.50 per session. Call Janet on 07531 638820.



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Ex-head admits to indecent pictures



Ross Workman

A FORMER headteacher from Stourbridge has admitted making indecent images of children. Ross Workman had more than 500 pictures and videos on his computer's hard drive, court documents revealed.

The 51-year-old pleaded guilty to six counts of making an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child at a brief hearing last week.

Workman, formerly of Stourbridge but now of Low Fold Close, Worcester, appeared before Dudley magistrates, speaking only to confirm his address and his date of birth.

The disgraced headteacher, who was previously of good character, was arrested by

detectives from the force's Online Child Sexual Exploitation Team in November 2014.

He was immediately suspended from his role at Oldswinford CE Primary School and letters were sent home to parents.

Police said there was no evidence regarding pupils at the school arising as part of the investigation.

Court documents revealed Workman's hard drive contained 440 still images and 92 moving images. Forty still images and 48 moving were in category A – the most serious – with 80 still images and 34 moving images in category B, and 320 still and 10 moving in category C.

Workman, who was wearing a pinstripe grey suit, light shirt and purple tie, will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 2.

Miss Melanie Hughes, prosecuting, said: "On November 3, 2014 officers from the Online Child Sex Exploitation Team executed a search warrant at Mr Workman's home address. At the time Mr Workman was the head of Oldswinford Primary School. His computer equipment was handed over to the police and contained indecent images of children. Mr Workman didn't contest the contents, saying it was him alone who had access to the computer."

Hockey and football in clash over stadium pitch

COUNCIL bosses have defended their decision to force hockey teams out of Dudley's The Dell Stadium because football is more popular.

Dudley Council has plans for a £500,000 synthetic 3G floodlit football pitch at the Brockmoor stadium with a submission going to the Football Foundation.

It will see Dudley Ladies Hockey Club and Kingswinford Hockey Club, who have used The Dell for more than 30 years, looking for a new base as the 3G pitch is not suitable for hockey. The 3G pitch is not permitted for league use by the All England Hockey Association.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said football clubs use The Dell nearly seven times more than hockey clubs throughout the week.

"Hockey clubs train on the site for three hours a week and play one or two games each Saturday, while football clubs use the existing facilities for over 20 hours each week," he said.

"This is a difficult situation where we have to balance the need for investing in the site in sports which are most popular there, and helping sports teams who may be affected by the proposal.

"We are continuing to work with the local hockey clubs to make sure they are catered for elsewhere in the borough.

"We want to take every opportunity to invest in our sports facilities wherever possible, in line with our commitment to help people lead happy and healthy lives.

Invest

"This proposal will invest in a sport which is very popular at the Dell Stadium by improving the playing surface which will attract significantly more clubs.

"The new facility would increase levels of use significantly, as both training and matches for all age groups can be accommodated on the third generation pitch and the likelihood of postponement of games is limited."

Dudley Ladies Hockey Club chairman Sharon Mason said the club felt 'very let down' and is planning to hold further meetings with the council and England Hockey, hockey's governing body. She added: "We are angry that they want to pull up the pitch and jeopardise the future of two clubs."

Council chiefs have said there are potential alternative sites for the hockey teams, some as little as three miles away from the stadium.

Social club saved from bulldozers



The Halesowen Members Club in Hagley Road, Halesowen, will not now become a supermarket car park

A SOCIAL club has survived an attempt from supermarket chain Lidl to knock it down so it can extend its car park next door.

Halesowen Members Club had been eyed up by supermarket bosses who saw an opportunity to create more parking spaces at its Hagley Road store.

The car park would have almost doubled in size with Lidl seeking to add an extra 75 spaces.

However, supermarket bosses

have been knocked back by Dudley Council planning bosses who have refused the plans due to concerns over the impact on the busy Hagley Road.

Council officers were unhappy that the supermarket was not planning to create a new access point to the extended car park, meaning added pressure on the existing entrance both and more cars waiting to turn in from Hagley Road.

Experts also said the extended car park would 'dominate the street scene'.

Lidl's Hagley Road store opened on the site of a former Peugeot garage in January 2008.

Halesowen councillor Nick Gregory welcomed the decision and said too many pubs and clubs were disappearing. He said: "I think it's much more important that we keep pubs and clubs going."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chance to talk on high-rise blocks

RESIDENTS living in Dudley's high-rise flats are invited to discuss issues relating to their estates at a meeting.

Dudley Council is encouraging its tenants and leaseholders to become involved in the running of their blocks. A special group, the High Rise Living Forum, meets on a regular basis, discussing issues relating to living within a high-rise.

The next meeting will be at Saltwells Education Centre, Netherton, on February 23 from 7pm to 8.30pm. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm. Call (01384) 815168.

Revived pub has won two awards

A HALESOWEN pub that once faced being converted into a supermarket is celebrating a double award.

The Swan in Long Lane has been voted the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale's pub of the year. Members have also voted it area cider pub of the year.

The pub was saved by Black Country Ales after thousands of residents signed petitions to keep it open. The Pensnett-based pub company restored the pub after buying it in September 2013. Licensees Paul Hicks and Liz Rogers took over last year.

More than 1,350 homes are built

A WEST Midlands developer built 1,356 homes across the region in the last year.

Barratt Developments – which includes both Barratt Homes West Midlands, based in Halesowen, and David Wilson Homes Mercia, based in Solihull – said the work supported 3,400 jobs directly and through its contractors and suppliers.

The homes were built between July 2014 and July 2015, using 90 per cent UK-made materials.

Driver and passenger hurt as van hits tree

TWO men were taken to hospital after a van crashed into a tree near Hagley last week.

Emergency crews were called to the A456 near the Badgers Sett pub after a van had been involved in a collision with a car and hit a tree shortly after 8am on February 3.

The male driver suffered a head injury while a teenage passenger suffered minor injuries, West Midlands Ambulance Service said. The driver of the other car was not injured.

Archive coffee morning

THE Friends of Dudley Archives and Local History Centre has a fundraising coffee morning planned for later this month.

It is being held at the centre in Tipton Road on Saturday, February 20, from 11am to 2pm and will also include craft stalls.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IF you believe some reports, viewers were shocked at the naked soldiers in the lake-bathing scene in War & Peace (BBC1). I suspect the biggest shock was the effect of freezing cold water on the male equipment. It can seriously shrivel your tolstoys.

I RAISED this question a few days ago: how many of today's 21-year-old graduates could pass the 11-plus? A former obligingly digs out an 11-plus maths paper from the 1950s with the question: "Subtract two-thirds of 834 from 23 times 185". Moving swiftly on . . .

TERRY Wogan, the most famous Irishman in Britain, was broadcasting throughout the 30 years of the so-called Troubles when bombs and bullets claimed 3,000 lives. When things got really nasty, notably after the 1974 Birmingham Pub Bombings, his gentle Irish accent was a precious daily reminder of the inseparable ties and the great affection between two close and tolerant nations. Wogan never mentioned the Troubles on air but when it was all over, he joked about receiving "the odd death threat" and explained:



"Things being done in the name of Irish freedom were not being done by me or anyone I knew."

His words, echoed by millions of Irish, are a reminder that the Troubles were never a popular mass movement but were led and engineered by a few hundred fanatics who ruined tens of thousands of lives.

TRANSPORT for London (TfL) has issued its annual tally of lost property left behind on trains and buses. Umbrellas, wallets, laptops and other small things are among the 300,000 items. The real puzzle is finding several drum kits. How does anyone who boards a bus carrying a bass drum, snare drum, pedal, cymbal and a pair of tom-toms manage to leave without them? And what of his fellow travellers? As the drummer prepares to step off, does no-one say: "Oi, mate! Isn't that your drum kit?" It is all very puzzling. The TfL lost-property haul also includes 150 mobile phones per day. Good.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Investigators hired to snoop on council staff

DUDLEY Council hired private investigators on more than 40 occasions in the last five years to spy on its own staff.

The authority spent more than £16,000 of public money to hire investigators between 2011 and 2015, figures released via a Freedom of Information request show.

In every instance they were tasked with compiling evidence relating to suspected fraudulent conduct by council employees. The total spent was £16,014.

By Peter Madeley

Bosses say it is necessary to bring in 'professional services' to investigate allegations. Almost 60 per cent of the investigations in Dudley resulted in no evidence being obtained.

But union leaders at a regional level said they were concerned that the authority was using private investigators to snoop on staff, many of whom had 'done nothing wrong'. They have now contacted the council to find out why so many investigations have been launched.

Probe

A total of £9,153 was spent over the period on investigations that led to staff members being cleared of any wrongdoing, including a prolonged probe into one worker that cost the public purse £1,972. Also in 2015/16, another investigation costing £1,429 also found no evidence to support the allegation.

The authority says it uses surveillance 'to support internal resource'. Bosses refused to reveal why inves-

tigators were hired for individual cases and declined to reveal how many cases resulted in prosecutions.

Philip Tart, strategic director for resources and transformation services at the council, said: "At times serious and complex allegations such as fraudulent conduct are made against staff which have to be investigated as a matter of urgency. This will on occasion require us to bring in professional services."

Around one third of the UK's local authorities admit to having hired private investigators over the last five years. The vast majority of investigations are against members of the public.

Unison's Keith Heron said: "We recognise Dudley Council has a responsibility to safeguard the public's funds, but we are concerned that they are using private investigators to snoop on staff, who often, by the council's own standards, have done nothing wrong."

Mixed feelings over market



Opposed – Sam McCrone who runs Jewellery Inspired

TRADERS in Stourbridge are divided over plans for a new Thursday street market in the town centre.

High Street and part of Market Street would shut every Thursday under proposals by market operator LSD Promotions. The first market could be held as early as April.

The scheme has been met with mixed reaction in the town.

Some shop bosses claim the loss of parking spaces and competition from the stallholders could hit them hard. While others say it will bring more shoppers to the town centre.

Sam McCrone, who runs Jewellery Inspired in the Ryemarket Shopping Centre, is planning to fight it.

He said: "Many retailers can't take the impact of somebody selling the same items at a fraction of the cost."

"The High Street is going to be hit really hard."

Angela Rae, who runs The Photo Expert on High Street, was concerned about loss of parking outside the shop, but added: "I like the idea of going back to a market town. Ideally I would like a two-week trial to see if it is going to work."

Aldi store is given thumbs up by council

SUPERMARKET giant Aldi will press ahead with plans to build a new shop in Lye, creating 80 jobs, after councillors gave the scheme the green light.

The supermarket will be built on the former site of the well-known Bronx works in Dudley Road.

Councillors approved the plans, which also include a car park with 120 spaces, after receiving more than 100 letters of support from residents.

At a meeting Councillor David Vickers described the new supermarket as a 'great facility for Lye'.

While Councillor Keiran Casey said: "This land needs to be refurbished."

"And the proposals have had a lot of support from local people as well as the backing of Dudley Council."

"In my opinion, it is only bringing positives to Lye, in the fact that a good number of jobs are being created and as a supermarket in the area, it will boost the economy."

Deputy Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif has also welcomed the support for the supermarket and said he hopes it can be a 'catalyst for the town'.

He said: "Lye has been looking for a major store to come in for a number of years. This is a piece of land that was not going to be used for much else. It also does not affect Lye High Street which we want to ensure is kept thriving."

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Farmer has given air show a home

THE future of a fundraising air show which was in danger of folding after losing its venue has been secured.

Organisers of the popular Wings and Wheels shows were left devastated after bosses at Halfpenny Green Airport, Bobbington, pulled out of hosting the twice-yearly show.

A race against time was launched to find a new location in time for the Easter Wings and Wheels Air Day at the end of March. Now they have landed a site near Bridgnorth to host the two-day event and further shows.

Organiser Vaughan Meers said he was 'over the moon' after Roy Millington came offered the private airstrip on land at his farm at Chetton as an alternative location. Both shows, which raise thousands of pounds for charity, will go ahead under a new name, Bridgnorth Wings and Wheels.

Around 5,000 people flocked to last year's August bank holiday event which starred The Red Arrows and raised £9,000 for charity. It was the Wings and Wheels' sixth consecutive year at Bobbington.

Mr Meers said they had been planning a special show at Halfpenny Green this year to mark its 75th anniversary as an airfield. The show takes place at its new venue on March 27 and 28.

Screening for film on a football hero

A FILM telling the life story of Dudley-born England and Manchester United footballer Duncan Edwards will be screened to raise funds towards saving the Dudley Hippodrome. The player, who died from injuries sustained in the Munich air disaster, is the subject of the documentary 'And Then Came Munich' at the Cable Plaza Cafe, at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, on March 4, at 7pm with entrance costing £5.

£31m music institute being proposed for The Waterfront

Heroes get awards at mayor's ball



Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley Councillor Steve and Jayne Waltho with a glitter ball and tickets for the event

UNSUNG community heroes will be the guests of the Mayor of Dudley at a charity ball next month.

The winners of the this year's Mayor's Civic Awards will be presented with their prizes on the same night.

The event will take place on March 18 at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill, from 6.45pm.

Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho said: "The Mayor's Ball is not only an

opportunity to raise money for some very worthy causes, it's also a lot of fun. And for the first time, this year we will be celebrating the winners of the civic awards too.

"There will be music and dancing and an opportunity to learn more about my five chosen charities.

"I urge people to snap up their tickets early to avoid disappointment."

Tickets for the ball cost £35 which

includes a three course meal, music and other entertainment. They are available by calling 01384 815211 or emailing Christine.Skelding@dudley.gov.uk

People have until February 14 to put forward nominations for the civic awards. They can nominate online at www.dudley.gov.uk/civicawards or can pick up a nomination form from libraries and leisure centres.

PLANS for a £31 million music college at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill, creating more than 130 jobs, have been unveiled.

The campus could open its doors to students as early as September 2017 if a feasibility study proves successful. If given approval, the ground-breaking not-for-profit institute, which has been backed by the music industry, will offer places for around 600 degree and 115 postgraduate students.

The campus would include a lecture theatre, classrooms, practise rooms, a library, recording studios, an independent radio station, a sound and light control room, a live music venue, a retail outlet, bar and student accommodation.

Dudley Council has backed the project in the hope it will kick-start the regeneration of the Waterfront area.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is a very exciting development for Dudley and I am delighted the music institute have chosen to invest in Brierley Hill and create a state-of-the-art venue for some of the country's top music students.

Investment

"This will have a huge positive impact on the local economy and will bring hundreds of students to the area."

The project is looking for funding from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, with the rest of the money from private investment.

Bosses say discussions are still ongoing as to which of the existing Waterfront buildings could be used.

More than 130 jobs are expected to be created by the project, led by a music industry consortium.

Garage sites chosen for council homes

AROUND 350 new homes will be built in Dudley borough over the next five years, with affordable housing to feature in the new developments.

The £18 million plan by Dudley Council will see the homes built mainly on the sites of small blocks of garages. The initial three garage sites involved are Ketley Hill Road, Dudley, Lea Bank Road, Netherton, and Marley Road, Kingswinford.

The construction of new council homes as part of the scheme is now underway on sites in Sedgley, Woodsetton, Wollaston and Coseley. Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "Eight apartments and two houses to be built at Lea Bank Road will be affordable housing for local people."

"They are part of a council new build programme to provide 350 new homes over the next five years on a number of sites throughout the borough."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Well Trump that! Adele is definitely radio no no

THE singer Adele has complained about Donald Trump using her music during his bid to secure the Republican nomination for The White House. Couldn't agree more, it is bad enough having to hear her turgid dirges on the radio.

□ □ □

ANOTHER brilliant idea from the wacky world of local government. This time it's Hackney Council, which is planning to introduce £1,000 fines for vagrants sleeping in doorways. Good luck with enforcing that one. Let's hope they have their credit cards handy.

□ □ □

MANY years ago, when I was more than a bit gullible and naive, I made a half-hearted attempt to haggle with a car salesman, asking him to knock £28 off the price of a car I was about to buy.

The salesman, who up until that moment had been demonstrating more pater than Jimmy Tarbuck, then returned from a cloak-and-dagger meeting with the sales manager, sadly shaking his head saying he could only give me £8 off 'plus a good tank of petrol'.

Which reminds me a bit of David Cameron's attempt to renegotiate Britain's membership of the European Union. He didn't ask for much, and they gave him slightly less than he asked for.

I bought the car anyway, and quickly grew to hate the sight of the thing when it kept blowing its head gasket. Would you be terribly surprised if the same turned out to be true for the new EU treaty?

□ □ □

THE story goes that when Elvis Presley lived at Graceland, only he was ever allowed upstairs. Not even his parents, who shared the mansion with him, were permitted in the bedrooms, lest they caught sight of him looking less than immaculate. A bit extreme, maybe, but at least it shows he took pride in his appearance.

Compare this to the story of Skerne Park Academy in Darlington, where headmistress Kate Chisholm caused an indignant backlash by asking parents if they would be so kind as to get dressed before they dropped their children off at school. Do these people have no self-respect? What sort of future will these children have if their parents tell them it is OK to turn up to the school gates in their pyjamas?

It's the same with dress-down Fridays at work. Why Friday, as opposed to dress-down Tuesday? Rightly or wrongly, the message it sends out is that they are already winding down for the weekend, and aren't really going to bust a gut unless they have to.

Now I don't go buy into the old adage that "Clothes maketh the man", but if somebody finds it too much effort to get dressed in the morning, perhaps they are not really cut out for the demanding role of bringing up a child.



Soundtrack specialist Clint works through an idea on guitar



At work on the piano, movie music master Clint Mansell



In his hellraiser days, Clint fronts the band Pop Will Eat Itself

Dark times gave Clint fuel for his creativity

From the Black Country to New York and Hollywood... soundtrack writer Clint Mansell talks to **ANDY RICHARDSON**

HIS accent hasn't changed a bit. Clint Mansell may have become one of Hollywood's most important and successful soundtrack writers and been nominated for an Oscar but he still sounds like the same guy who used to drink at The Mitre in Stourbridge, back in the day.

The former dreadlocked-hell-raiser of The Stourbridge Scene, who led Pop Will Eat Itself into the charts during 10 inglorious years, has not developed any airs and graces. There are no delusions of grandeur, no ideas above his station. He's the same humble and intensely creative man that he ever was.

"Y'alright, man," he says, down the line from Los Angeles. He's in poor shape today, he's only had about four hours sleep. "I've got this right stinking cold. I can't shift it. I've had it for four months."

Charts

Clint's story is one of the most remarkable in the West Midlands. He formed PWEI and gatecrashed the charts on a wave of sample-driven, industrial indie rock. Get The Girl! Kill The Baddies! hit the top 10 while X Y & Zee, Dance Of The Mad, Touched by the Hand of Ciciolina and RSVP weren't far behind. But it was tunes like Beaver Patrol, Def. Con. One., Can U Dig It? and Wise Up! Sucker that cemented their status as cult heroes. They paved the way for The Wonder Stuff, Ned's Atomic Dustbin and a plethora of others.

"I still come back to Stourbridge," he says. "I see my parents there three or four times a year. That whole scene was good to me. We had the best time."

"I remember signing on on a Wednesday and the van would be waiting around the corner to take us out of town and do a gig somewhere for £50. We weren't The Rolling Stones.



The Wrestler, Black Swan, Noah and Moon are among Clint Mansell's acclaimed film scores

We were renting vans from Value Van Hire at Brierley Hill then hitting the road in search of a good time."

Clint and bandmate Graham Crabb wrote most of the Poppies tunes until the band split in 1996.

"We'd been doing that for 10 years and Adam, Graham, Richard, Fuzz and myself had been together as friends for the best part of 15 years. We were all very much at a loss. The band sort of becomes your identity. I imagine it's similar to anyone who's been made redundant. You identify yourself through the things that you do. It took me at least three or four years to get back on my feet."

Clint went to New York. "I was lost, really. I was pretty broke as well. Suddenly you go from being in a successful band to not doing a great deal. The thing that kept me going must have been some kind of delusion. I was 33, I had no experience of anything other than

writing songs. I just wanted to give it a shot in New York.

"If it hadn't have worked out I'd just have gone back to Stourbridge to do whatever I would have been doing. Sometimes you have to chance. Don't get me wrong, it's been a lot of hard work. I've done 60 film scores.

"But without having taken that risk I'd never have gotten here. I'd missed the train to settle down and have kids. There were no other options."

In New York, Clint hooked up with the film director Darren Aronofsky, a Harvard University alumni who has subsequently been nominated for an Oscar and created such films as The Wrestler, the 300 million-dollar-grossing Black Swan and the 350 million-dollar-grossing Noah.

"Back in the day, with the band, I'd pay my dues by playing JB's in Dudley, or The Hummingbird in Birmingham. When I started

writing film scores, it was the same. At first, I was totally out of my depth. But I learnt a lot. After I'd done 10 or 12 films, I felt like I was getting the hang of it.

"It was very fortuitous to meet Darren. It changed the course of both of our lives. It turned out that our sensibilities matched up. Because he delves into the dark side, if you like.

Liberating

"For me, there were a lot of dark times during that transition from PWEI to being a film score writer. But those dark times gave me fuel."

Clint's moody and elegiac music dovetailed perfectly with Darren's films.

"It was totally different from being in the band. Then, we'd write songs for ourselves. We'd write about anything we liked. But when you write for a film you have to serve the film and go with the director's wishes. But in a weird way, that's very liberating."

Clint scored Darren's debut film, Pi, and was retained to score the next, Requiem For A Dream, which featured the composition Lux Aeterna. The piece has been used in film and trailers while a version was re-orchestrated for choir and full orchestra on The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers. Not bad for a fella from Stourbridge who used to spend most of his time drunk.

There have been more successes, most notably the scores to The Fountain, Smokin' Aces, The Wrestler, Black Swan and Moon. Clint's work is ubiquitous; featuring on Top Gear, Lost, The Da Vinci Code and in computer games.

"I've been very fortunate that I've been able to do what I've wanted while putting some bread on the table. I know I'm not right for every other film. It has to speak to me. It has to draw on something that's within me because I feel then that I can bring something to the table."

Uneasy Listening: An Evening With Clint Mansell plus special guests is at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on March 23. Tickets, priced £22.50 or £27.50, are available at www.thsh.co.uk or from the box office on 0121 780 4949.

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Children should be priority at park

DEAR me, D White of Dudley, I've really ruffled your feather's haven't I! You have made many assumptions about me, but you shouldn't judge.

I too am retired and infirm, all the more reason why I don't want dogs running around my legs and jumping up me. I too have visited Himley Hall regularly for many many years and must have put a fortune in the pay machine, but I haven't been for over two years because after an incident I was too nervous of the dogs.

So do I have to stay away from my favour-

ite place just because you dog owners want all your own way?

You mention the children like to feed the ducks, they also like to ride their bikes and scooters without being chased. Do you have children or grandchildren? Is this what you want for the youngster's visiting the park?

What a sad sign of the times when dogs and their walks are more important than the well-being of children and the public. Happy walkies!

A BLAKE
Dudley

Doubts over family area

IN reply to A Blake's letter (Letters to the Editor, January 21).

It needs to be noted that the main reason given by Dudley MBC in regard to the 'dog free zone' at Himley Hall was to encourage families with children, presumably who do not have dogs, to use a safer area of the park.

However, the council at the same time did not state how they actually intended to encourage further use. There are no plans for this area to incorporate any play equipment or inclusive play facilities for children. You liken this to the provision, in the at Sandwell Valley and there is simply no comparison.

Therefore will a long patch of grass, free of dogs, really encourage more use of the park by a select demographic? I have my doubts.

C SHARP
Halesowen

Speed limit limit would be effective

THE roadworks on the Hagley Road roundabout at Pedmore still have weeks to run but it is already apparent that the permanent reduction from two lanes to one past the Foley Arms is causing gridlock on the roundabout.

In turn, this adds to the tailbacks on the approaching Hagley and Pedmore roads.

My guess is the planners have done this to improve safety past Pedmore school, something that is much needed. So why is the speed limit to remain at 40 mph?

Safety could have been improved by reducing the speed of traffic rather than constraining its flow.

Erecting 30mph signs on the Hagley Road would cost a fraction of the lane reduction work, reduce rather than increase emissions, cause zero disruption and increase the safety of the walk to school for the pupils of both Pedmore and Oldswinford primary schools. It would be cost effective and simple.

D GREALIS
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Midlands and north bearing migrant cost

IT was refreshing to hear some common sense spoken by Labour Dudley North MP, Ian Austin regarding the allocation of asylum seekers and migrants around the UK.

As he correctly points out, the north has accepted nearly 5,000 asylum seekers, the West Midlands 3,000, while the wealthy south east, south west and east of England have only taken 1,200 between them.

Some southern councils have taken no migrants at all. How is this fair and just? It is not.

When one hears of the 'prosperous south', you can now understand why they are so 'prosperous'. With minimal acceptance of asylum seekers, the southern

councils do not have the extra high costs of translators, social workers, social housing and other expense associated with hosting these migrants.

Councils in the north and Midlands have all these costs and social issues to deal with, along with constant budget cuts.

Rather than the West Midlands' MPs pleading for us to accept more asylum seekers to our regions, I hope they lend their support to their colleague, Ian Austin, in trying to persuade southern councils to accept their fair share and assist the north and Midlands with this ongoing and increasing burden.

G GRANT
Birmingham

Dogs should be on leads

RE letter by J James (Letters to the Editor, February 4).

I totally agree dogs off the lead are a pain in public places. We went to Himley last year with my five year old and there was a dog running all over the place and jumping up people.

If a large dog ran and jumped up at a small child they would be sent flying. I have a dog but keep it on the lead, all dogs in public places should be on leads and there should definitely be a dog free zone at Himley.

J GUEST
Wordsley

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Colourful display on cold night

Wall Heath Horticultural

FOLLOWING the Christmas break, members met again on Tuesday, February 2 for a delightful meeting.

A new idea for the guild is for members to bring a pot plant to show and be judged. This was well supported and was a great success. There was as very colourful display of blooms for a cold evening.

Derek Bull, a volunteer and garden guide at Hidcote Manor, in Gloucestershire, kindly came and talked to members about the National Trust property.

He showed examples of wonderful photographs which had been done by Country Life magazine in the 1930s up to the 1950s which were black and white leading onto more contemporary photography.

He gave a wonderful history of Lawrence Johnson (1871-1958) who owned the Manor which was purchased for him by his very wealthy American mother Gertrude Winthrop, a divorcee.

The National Trust took over the Manor and gardens in 1948. Everything that is done within the gardens is strictly overseen by English Heritage.

Chairman Amanda Ridney gave information regarding forthcoming events within the guild.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm, in the community centre, Enville Road, Wall Heath, Kingswinford.

Anyone wishing to visit or join the guild will be made very welcome. Further information can be obtained from Amanda Ridney on 01384 287480.

Cold weather leads to depleted numbers

Successful year for thriving club

Clent Gardening Club

THE club's AGM was held on January 22 at Clent Village hall and a healthy turn out of members were in attendance to hear the chairman report on another successful year for this thriving village club.

He reported that, although overall membership was slightly down on previous years the monthly meetings were generally well attended and during the preceding 12 months had enjoyed a variety of interesting speakers, culminating in its first celebrity speaker in November.

He also reported on two enjoyable outings and a successful annual Flower Show held in conjunction with Clent WI.

Election of officers followed and John Partington was re-elected as honorary president, Mar-

tin Grange as chairman, Peter Orme as honorary treasurer and Ann Hunt as honorary secretary.

The chairman presented garden vouchers and a pot of seasonal daffodils as a token of the club's gratitude to retiring committee members Marie Turner, Janet Babb and former chairman Pat Orme each of whom had given many years of service.

The first meeting of 2016 will be held at the village hall on February 26, with a talk by Patrick Clement entitled "Garden Moths and Butterflies".

For further details on joining or visiting visit <https://clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com> or call Martin Grange on 01562 883009/07917 184762.

Wollaston E TWG

THE January meeting brought in the new year, but also some very wet and cold weather. Consequently attendance at the meeting was depleted and the chairman was obliged to read out a lengthy list of apologies.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed, followed by the treasurer's and sub-section reports.

A number of outings are in the pipeline - namely a skittles/fish and chips evening, a visit to the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, lunch at the College of Food in Birmingham, and a trip to see Grease at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

The speaker was Malcolm Astley, who with the aid of slides, gave a good insight into the history of National Trust's Moseley Old Hall, near Wolverhampton - a resting place of Charles II during his escape after defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

Raffle winners were Jean Millward and Wendy Crickard and the competition was won by Julie Willetts.

New members to start off year

Kingswinford Folk Dance Club

THE final event of 2015 was as usual, a party night. In addition to dancing, members enjoyed a shared supper and instead of Christmas cards, a donation was made to the charity fund.

The destination of the collection was chosen by Norma, who held the lucky ticket in the raffle.

The new year got off to a rousing start as there are several new members. As funds

are stable the annual subscription can remain at £3 per annum. A 'thank you' letter was read out which had been sent to Norma, from Barnardo's, her chosen charity.

The club meets in St Mary's School, Kingswinford, on alternate Thursdays from 7.45pm. Prospective new members are always welcome.

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Hands on – gaming appeals to all ages

COMPETITION

Show on the button with tech treats

IT'S Back – Britain's biggest consumer tech show, Gadget Show Live, returns to Birmingham's NEC this Easter.

The show which runs from Thursday, March 31 to Sunday, April 3, features four fantastic new areas this year – Better Life, Power Up, The Lab and The Arcade – making it the perfect day out for everyone.

And the Chronicles have teamed up with the organisers to give 20 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show.

The Super Theatre also makes a powerful return as presenters Jason Bradbury, Jon Bentley, Oris Deley and Amy Williams host an hour-long performance overflowing with tech treats.

For the first time ever, the Super Theatre performances, featuring the

TV show's presenters, will be filmed for an episode of The Gadget Show to be broadcast on Channel Five later this year giving visitors the chance to feature in the programme alongside the presenters.

The new areas include:- Better Life – where visitors will discover tech that's been engineered to enhance their everyday lives.

Power Up – finding technology with the power to drive lives forward

The Lab – concept and innovation are integral to modern day tech and visitors can discover inspirational tech for the future

The Arcade – the place for gamers to become truly immersed in the very latest titles on the market

For more information and tickets, please visit gadgetshowlive.net



Exciting effects will feature



HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning simply answer this question.

What are the new areas called?

Send answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Gadget Show Competition, Chronicle Series (Editorial) 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date Thursday, February 18. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision final.

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ONLINE bullies have committed more than 1,800 Facebook stalking and harassment offences in the last five years in the West Midlands.

Crimes included disclosure of private, sexual photographs and films, racially and religiously aggravated harassment, stalking involving fear of violence, serious alarm or distress and breaches of restraining orders.

The figures, which have been released under Freedom of Information laws, show that cyber-bullies and internet trolls are still rife with people are using the internet to make others lives a misery.

Of the 1,841 incidents recorded by West Midlands Police, 290 people were charged, including 124 youths.

Warnings were issued to 38 people and cautions were given to 54 – 15 young people and 39 adults. On 240 occasions, cases were dropped due to evidential difficulties and community resolutions were the outcome in 273 of the cases.

Peaky into gangland past at the museum



Peaky Blinders style at the Black Country Living Museum

FANS of the hit television drama *Peaky Blinders* will be able to celebrate the show at a themed event coming to the Black Country Living Museum.

The Tipton Road attraction has drawn attention around the world as it became known that the producers of the between the wars gangster saga film many of the scenes at the Dudley museum. The canal side yard and foundry are among the areas used as backdrops to the action over the past three series.

The themed event on September 10 will feature live music, dancing and gin cocktails as the museum recreates the glamour and the grime of Peaky Blinders era.

The Bottle and Glass Inn will be serving bottles of Peaky Blinders beer made by Lye-based brewery Sadler's. Street theatre will take place across the site to give the impression that the notorious gang are on the prowl. Fat caps and 1930s style grandad shirts will be on sale at the museum, as well as an onsite 1930s-style barber by appointment for those who want to perfect their Peaky look. The event is for over 16s only. See www.bclm.com/peakyblinders

Construction sector set to recruit 10,000

THE regeneration of Birmingham city centre and major road improvements will help create up to 10,000 construction jobs across the West Midlands over the next five years, according to a new report.

Figures from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) reveal that construction employment in the West Midlands is set to rise by 10,200 by 2021, with an estimated total of 215,000 jobs predicted in the region by 2020.

CITB's Construction Skills Network report forecasts that employment is set to rise at an annual average rate of one per cent between 2016 and 2020, with the labouring trade seeing the largest expansion at a rate of 3.7 per cent, followed by bricklayers, steel erectors and civil engineers. One of the largest retail-orientated projects is the £500m redevelopment of Birmingham city centre. Infrastructure output should also be buoyed by £1.8bn worth of investment into the Midlands' roads network.

Meeting with minister over the menace of zombie knives

A CAMPAIGN against the sale of 'zombie knives' by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner is being taken to Whitehall.

Commissioner David Jamieson is to meet with Home Office minister Karen Bradley MP next month as he takes his battle against the sale of 'zombie knives' to the heart of Government.

He is calling for a total ban on the sale of the blades, which have names such as Head Splitter, Death Dagger and The Skinner.

The commissioner said the knives are being increasingly used by criminal gangs.

Mr Jamieson has also written to the chief executive of Amazon UK calling for an immediate ban on the sale of zombie knives. Questions on the vicious-looking blades have also been tabled in Parliament by Dudley North MP Ian Austin. The Home Office has said it that it is aware of concerns about zombie knives.

Mr Jamieson said: "I am pleased that having raised this issue the Government is taking it seriously and I am looking forward to a productive meeting."

"I also hope the Government brings Amazon to the table. I am not saying Amazon is the only company selling these items – far from it, unfortunately they are available from many outlets – but it is the biggest online retailer in the country and where it leads, others follow.

"I also want to be clear that I am not against the legal and responsible sale of knives in general – obviously they have a practical use in the home and garden. But these zombie knives have no practical usage whatsoever. These are truly terrible weapons that need to be removed from the streets as soon as possible."



Dudley North MP Ian Austin

Peer to talk on ancestral home

THE 12th Viscount Cobham will be the guest speaker at Stourbridge Historical Society's next meeting.

Lord Cobham will be talking about the Lyttelton family's ancestral home of Hagley Hall. The illustrated talk Hagley Hall, Past, Present and Future is being presented in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on Thursday, February 18 at 7.30pm. Admission for non-members will be £3.

The current Viscount is Christopher Lyttelton, who succeeded his late brother John in 2006.

The house is set in 350 acres of landscaped deer park. There has been a park at Hagley since the reign of Edward III in the 14th century.

The society celebrates its 70th anniversary on March 17 when there will be entertainment from The Old Contemptibles.

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Pauline Hodgetts lays flowers at the memorial before the unveiling



West Bromwich MP Adrian Bailey uncovers the plaque in tribute to those killed in the raid



Rev Denise Williams leads the service in Tipton Cemetery where the plaque was unveiled



Local historian Derek Nicholls with Mr Bailey and the memorial plaque at the cemetery



Claire Hughes, aged 56, linked by family to victims at their unmarked graves



Keith Hodgkins from Tipton Civic Society records the proceedings

Tribute to Zeppelin victims

"WHAT a touching tribute to commemorate Tipton's lost ones 100 years on" – the words of historian Derek Nicholls after a memorial plaque was unveiled marking the Zeppelin Raids centenary.

Orchestrated by Mr Nicholls, who has spent three years researching the raids, and with help from Friends of Tipton, more than 100 people, along with Mayor councillor Barbara Price, turned out on Friday morning to remember the 14 local people who died in the raid.

The plaque itself was unveiled by West Bromwich MP Adrian Bailey at Tipton cemetery,

on Alexandra Road. On January 31 1916, the Black Country was targeted by mistake, as the German airship pilot mistook the area for Merseyside, killing 33 people in total, across Tipton, Wednesbury, Bilston and Walsall.

Bombs first hit Union Street in Tipton at around 8pm, with around five falling in the area.

One also fell outside Tipton railway station and more around Barnfield Road trading estate. In Union Street, two houses were demolished and others damaged and the gas main was set alight.

Among those who attended the service were John Wilkinson, Terry Britt and Alan James, who are all connected through Annie Wilkinson – John and Mr Britt's great aunt and

Alan's great grandmother, who tragically died in the bombings.

Mr Nicholls was overjoyed to see the plaque installed at the cemetery, describing it as a 'proud day for Tipton'. He said: "I never thought in my wildest dreams something like this would happen, and it's something the area should be very honoured to have." The memorial unveiling came after candles were lit for each of the Zeppelin's six victims in Walsall.

Civic leaders from across the West Midlands and Staffordshire joined parishioners at St Andrew's Church in Birchills, where the last of 400 bombs to hail down over the Black Country on the night of January 31 landed on the lawn, used as a bowling green, beside the red-brick church.

The lives of the victims, which included the town's Lady Mayoress Mary Slater, were remembered in readings and hymns. The service, led by Fr Iain Templeton, was held on Sunday, January 31, the exact anniversary of the First World War attack.

The congregation heard how Walsall still bears the scars of that night, with damage from the raids visible on the side of a building in Bradford Place, now the Labour Club.

Leading the congregation was Walsall mayor Councillor Angela Underhill who was joined by the mayors of Dudley, Tamworth, Shrewsbury and Solihull, the deputy mayor of Walsall and the chairman of South Staffordshire District Council. Firefighters from Bloxwich Fire Station also attended.



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Ten years for drug dealer who rammed police cars



The shotgun found in a car outside Morris's home in Brierley Hill, shotgun shells and a revolver was also found

A DRUG dealer from Brierley Hill has been jailed for more than 10 years after a police snoop found two guns in a car parked outside his home.

Unemployed Nathan Morris was arrested after being seen dealing drugs from his car in Church Street, Darlaston, on August 26.

The 28-year-old realised he had been spotted, reversed at speed and rammed three police cars and another stationary vehicle in his bid to escape.

Officers managed to stop the car and detained Morris while a search of the car revealed several wraps of drugs and two mobile phones.

Heroin

Police then raided his home in Madison Avenue, Brierley Hill, where they discovered a large quantity of heroin and cocaine.

They also searched a black Ford Mondeo for which Morris had the ignition key and found more drugs and two firearms – a bolt action shotgun and a revolver – plus shotgun shells.

He changed his plea to guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court where he was due to stand trial accused of possession of two firearms, ammunition, heroin and cocaine, together with dangerous driving.

Morris was sentenced to 10 years and three months in prison.

Inspector Keeley Bevington, from Walsall Police, said: "This lengthy sentence shows that gun and drug crime have no place in our communities."

Assistant Chief Constable Carl Foulkes said: "The public are our eyes and ears in our long-term plan to tackle gun crime and I want to appeal directly to our communities to contact us with any information you have about gun and gang crime."

Meanwhile, scores of crooks from the Black Country have been jailed after a six-week blitz on crime.

Officers in Sandwell have issued their thanks to members of the public for their help in bringing the criminals to justice as part of the Safer Six campaign, which included several dawn raids on addresses.



Drug dealer Nathan Morris, aged 28

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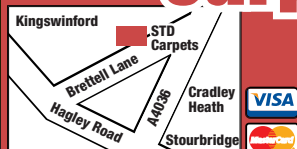
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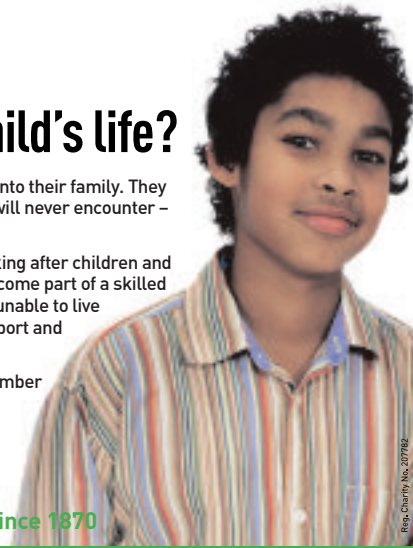
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Shock as assaults on police has reached 440

POLICE officers in the West Midlands have been assaulted more than 440 times in the line of duty, new figures reveal.

The number has risen from the previous year when there were 419 reports of police officers attacked from March 2013 to March 2014.

In the 12 months from March 2014, Wolverhampton had the most officer assaults with 89; then Walsall at 53; Dudley at 41 and Sandwell came in with the lowest at 21. Overall, 238 officers were assaulted across Birmingham across the whole of the city, making the total number of assaults 442.

Praise

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson says he is shocked by the figures and he heaped praise on 'public serving' police officers.

He said: "It is outrageous that during the course of their duty police officers are attacked. They are hard-working public servants who should be allowed to go carry out their job without fear of violence."

"It is always shocking to see figures relating to these sorts of attacks and I want

By David Callaghan

those responsible to feel the full force of the law. It is the job of police officers to keep the public safe and it is totally unacceptable that they have to endure such treatment."

The statistics were published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary and were collected by the Home Office.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Gina Lyceett said: "Whilst one assault on an officer is one too many, the nature of policing carries some risk. In the West Midlands our officers are trained in personal safety techniques. They are also suitably equipped to ensure that they are able to discharge their duties as safely as possible in protecting our communities."

Say I do to netting your dream wedding



Cakes by Caterina Bianchi has exhibited at previous wedding fairs, and this year there will be more stalls than ever

WOLVERHAMPTON Magazine is hosting its fifth annual wedding fair and due to its continued success the show will be held at Molineux for the first time.

The wedding fair has previously been staged at The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall, but to accommodate growing demand is moving to a larger venue.

Brides-to-be are expected to flock to Wolverhampton Magazine's Wedding Fair planned for Sunday, March 20, from 11am to 4pm. The event will be held in the stylish WV1 suite, overlooking the pitch, and the goal is to ensure visitors walk away with ideas galore for the big day. The increased space means people will be able to browse up to 45 stands.

The fair, sponsored by Cousins Furniture, will boast specialists who can cater for every requirement, from the all-important dress to the transport. Exciting hair and make-up demonstrations will also be taking place. Brides can register on arrival for free admission.

For more information about exhibiting at the fair call 01902 319693 or email deana.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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The entrance to Henry Meadows on Park Lane where Lawrence worked on boat engines



Colonel Lawrence seen with Winston Churchill in 1921



Lawrence seen on a motorbike. He died following a crash in 1935, aged just 46



The house in Copthorne Road, where Lawrence stayed



Windermere House seen from around the time he stayed

How Lawrence left desert for Midlands

FORGOTTEN images of Lawrence of Arabia - who lived and worked in Wolverhampton after his exploits in the desert - have been discovered at a records office in Northern Ireland.

British officer TE Lawrence was best known for his campaigns in the Middle East during the First World War when he helped promote rebellion against the failing Ottoman Empire.

Among the photographs are two of Lawrence astride the motorcycle he was fatally injured on in May 1935 in Dorset. He died aged 46, two months after leaving military service.

It was his interest in motor engines that brought him to the Black Country in January 1934 to work at the engineering firm Henry Meadows in Park Lane, Fallings Park, where he signed himself in

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

as 'T E Shaw'. He also used the alias 'T E Smith' when signing the visitors book at the Victoria Hotel in Wolverhampton but was recognised one night in the lounge by someone who had served with him in Arabia during the war.

Lawrence then took refuge at Perry's tea rooms in Queen Street, where he liked to discuss football and motorbikes with the other customers, who had no idea who he was.

Importance

At Henry Meadows, he would sit cross-legged on the floor, Arabian-style, working on the development of twin engine air/sea rescue boats for the RAF, a mission of national importance. He lodged at Henry Meadows' home at Windermere House in Copthorne Road.

The latest pictures to emerge were taken from the papers of Law-

rence's biographer, Belfast-born Harford Montgomery Hyde, for *Solitary In The Ranks: Lawrence Of Arabia As Airman And Private Soldier*, printed in 1977.

Lawrence's job during the war was to help prompt insurrection among the Arab subjects of the Ottoman Empire. The images were found in the archives by Public Record Office of Northern Ireland staff member Colin Shaw.

He said: "I subsequently found out that Hugh Cairns, the neurosurgeon who tended his injuries, would later write a pioneering study entitled 'Head injuries in Motor-cyclists - the importance of the crash helmet', which would lead to the British Army ordering all despatch riders to wear safety helmets in November 1941."

Lawrence was a practising archaeologist in the Middle East before he joined the Army. After the war he experienced difficulties readjusting to post-war life, and enlisted in the RAF. He went on to work for Winston Churchill and refused a knighthood.



A drawing of the soldier, immortalised in the film Lawrence of Arabia

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T-shirts honour football legend Duncan



Black Country T-Shirts staff member Phil Carter from Netherton models the shirt in honour of Duncan Edwards

A T-SHIRT has been made to mark the anniversary of the death of Dudley football legend Duncan Edwards, nearly 60 years after the Munich air crash.

Black Country T-Shirts have created the tribute to the Dudley-born England and Manchester United star, bearing a quote from United's manager Matt Busby describing him as 'the most complete footballer in Britain, possibly the world'.

Priory Estate-raised Edwards died on February 21, 1958, 15 days after the Munich air disaster on February 6. The accident during take off by a

plane containing the famous Busby Babes had seen seven of Edwards' team mates killed, as were three club officials, eight journalists, two members of the air crew and two other passengers.

The plane crashed on its third attempt to take off at Munich-Riem Airport, as the club was returning from a European Cup match against Red Star Belgrade. The jet had stopped to refuel but it had been snowing in Munich and the plane over-shot the runway and burst into flames after hitting buildings.

Most of the victims died instantly,

but 21-year-old Edwards battled his injuries for more than a fortnight before dying. Matt Busby, who was later knighted, was severely injured but went on to rebuild the team and bring it great success in the 1960s.

Founder of Black Country T Shirts Stephen Pitts said: "Having recently moved to Dudley, we are very close to the Duncan Edwards memorial statue. "With the anniversary of the crash and his subsequent death on February 21, we thought it would be fitting to make something to keep him in mind. I think it is a great tribute for a great footballer."

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The impressive set for *An Inspector Calls*, staged last week for capacity audiences at Wolverhampton Picture by Mark Douet

Classic with a message

An Inspector Calls, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
Director Stephen Daldry's version of JB Priestly's thriller combined with socialist sermon is fast becoming a classic of modern theatre, not bad for a revival of a play first performed in 1945.
The Billy Elliot director brought back this whodunnit with a political message at the National Theatre in 1992, maybe as a riposte to years of Thatcherism and the prevailing 'greed is good' mentality.
Working with designer Ian MacNeil, they created an atmospheric set dominated by a cobble street and a giant doll's house-like residence for the selfish, self-assured Birling family.
Daldry's vision, which has long eclipsed the old Edwardian drawing room productions, is back on tour again thanks to the inclusion of Priestly's play in the GCSE English Literature syllabus. More than half of last Tues-

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

day's audience were secondary school pupils.
Set in 1912, it tells of a police inspector disturbing a family party at the home of a rich northern factory owner as part of an investigation into the suicide of a young woman.
The cosy self-satisfied world of the Birlings is destroyed bit by bit by the impertinent, increasingly angry investigator, who seems to know everything about the Birlings and how they each contributed to the victim's downfall.
Liam Brennan was a strong presence as the avenging Inspector Goole. Other fine performances came from Caroline Wildi and Geoff Leesley as the pompous Birling parents, Katherine Jack as the guilt-ridden near hysterical

daughter, and Matthew Douglas as her compromised fiancé. Hamish Riddle, making his professional debut as the Birlings' broken son, was particularly persuasive and is certainly a talent to watch out for.
Stage veteran Diana Payne-Myers, as elderly servant Edna, was a wry, watchful presence.
But the major star was the striking set with its house that seemed to burst out of the cobbles and finally collapsed as if it had died of shame.
This striking imagery was enhanced by the foggy atmosphere and Oscar winner Stephen Warbeck's dramatic music.
Priestly's message about how our actions affect others, especially actions by the wealthy and powerful, is not subtle but it still resonates at a time when the gulf is growing between the rich and the rest.

Wham-bam here come Telegram

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

SWAGGERING onto the scene come a new gang of hip indie rockers, who draw on the glam traditions of Bowie and Bolan with the swashbuckle of Suede.

Welcome then, **Telegram**, an Anglo-Welsh quartet who are currently causing a stir on the London scene and try to live up to the hype with their dashing debut *Operator*.

The album perhaps promises more than it delivers but it is never less than entertaining. Singer Matt Saunders sounds like a Welsh Bryan Ferry, circa Virginia Plain, while the guitars and drums crash with the casual abandon of The Libertines or Palma Violets.

A Roxy Music comparison is not too far-fetched as two of the group were once in a tribute band called Proxy Music. Quirky Welsh outfit Super Furry Animals may also be an influence.

Highlights include forthcoming single Taffy Come Home, Aeons with its echoes of The Who and early Pink Floyd, and the driving Jam-like bonus track Have It Your Way.

Find out what all the fuss is about at The Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath tonight (Thu) before they put up the venue full sign.

The Canadian folk singer-songwriter **Basia Bulat** embraces an atmospheric pop/rock sound on her fourth album *Good Advice*, and the venture is an unqualified success.

Her friend and collaborator Jim James, of Kentucky rockers My Morning Jacket, is at the controls and has helped her craft an album that starts well and gets even better.

With a voice that is strong and confident, yet has a vulnerable tone, Bulat



New indie rock darlings Telegram have their roots in a Roxy Music tribute

straight away proves her pop credentials with *La La Lie*, which is then surpassed by *Fool*.

Her influences are hard to pin down, and that can only be a good thing, the sign of a highly original talent.

On the album's final two tracks, *The Garden* and *Someday Soon*, she raises her game again on a blissful high.

You may have already heard the music of **Stephanie Kirkham** without realising it as her catchy tune *Easy As 123*, featured on new album *Tiny Spark*, has been used to advertise Peugeot and EDF. Sweet-voiced singer Kirkham is a maker of relentlessly upbeat folk-pop, festooned with ukulele, flute and xylophone. It is sugary but only a curmudgeon could deny her charm or indeed her optimism.

The Lancastrian singer-songwriter had a brush with fame before but her original record deal fell through and there has been a ten year gap between her second and third albums.

Cherry Red Records have come up with another essential selection for

fans of 1960s music under their RPM imprint, **Looking Stateside: 80 US R&B, Mod, Soul & Garage Nuggets**.

Collectors have plucked three CD's worth of vinyl rarities taking in dance crazes, stomping instrumentals, soul groovers and garage rock, and the vast majority are gems for fans of the swinging 60s. Highlights on disco one include the feisty females Georgia Lynn (Sugar Shack Queen), Millie Foster (Love Wheel) and bluesy better Little Gigi (Take The Bitter With The Sweet).

Disc two is straight up top-notch Northern Soul from such as Chuck Jackson, Timi Yuro, Joe Tex, Sheila Ferguson (pre-Three Degrees), including the showstoppers I've Got To Keep Movin' by Charles Lamont & The Extremes, Put That Woman Down by John Leach and Can't Live Without You by The Jaywakers.

Disc three is garage rock and mod beat including the young Jimi Hendrix's favourite local band The Wallers, influential outfit The Sonics and a 60s track by rock 'n' roller Gene Vincent.

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Stags And Hens

Fri at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Dream & A Month In The Country

Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £10 - £26
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Brian Conley: Alive And Dangerous

Thu at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jimeoin: Yeehaa

Tue at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slad Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

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Seeing the funny side of treachery



Nicholas Farrell, Belinda Lang and David Robb in *Single Spies*, being staged at Birmingham Rep picture by Hugo Glendinning

TREACHERY has never been more entertaining than in *Single Spies*.

This double bill of comedies by Alan Bennett is being staged at Birmingham Repertory Theatre next week. *Single Spies* runs from February 17 to 27 and is directed by Olivier Award-nominated Rachel Kavanaugh, the former artistic director of Birmingham Rep.

Bennett's award-winning espionage double bill is a pointedly satirical snapshot of two infamous spies, Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt. Both rose to prominent positions in the British establishment but had been recruited as agents by the Soviet Union when students in the 1930s.

An Englishman Abroad chronicles actress Coral Browne's meeting with Burgess as he tried to adapt to life as a Soviet citizen in 1950s Moscow.

A Question of Attribution gives us a glimpse into Blunt's double-life as an art historian to royalty and a Soviet spy, which culminates in a sharp interrogation by the Queen.

An Englishman Abroad and A Question of Attribution stars David Robb – recently seen as Dr Clarkson in *Downton Abbey* – with Belinda Lang and Nicholas Farrell. Tickets are £13.50 to £35, see www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.



It's Joe on Fast Forward

SINGER-SONGWRITER Joe Jackson will headline Birmingham's O2 Institute tonight (Thu) to promote his latest album, Fast Forward.

Staffordshire-born Jackson found fame in 1979 with *Is She Really Going Out With Him?* and *It's Different For Girls*, and had another major hit with *Steppin' Out* three years later. Now he is touring Europe with his first collection of original songs in seven years. The album was released in October 2 to a host of excellent reviews.

The tour kicked off in Dublin last week and will end in Berlin, Jackson's second home, in March. The career-spanning shows will feature Jackson as his own opening act. He will play a short solo/piano set before bringing out his full band.

Fast Forward was written in four cities: New York, New Orleans, Berlin and Amsterdam. Jackson says: "Mostly it was the musicians that drew me to those places rather than the places themselves, and a few of the songs were kind of obvious. I mean, like 'Kings Of The City' is definitely a New York song, 'If I Could See Your Face' is definitely a Berlin song, and 'Neon Rain,' I was thinking about New Orleans when I wrote it."

"You know, if anyone asked me to describe my new album, or how I feel about it or anything like that, I just say it's great. I mean, I have no guarantees that anyone else in the world is going to think so, so I think it may as well start out with me thinking that."

Telegram kick off tour at Brum pub

LONDON band Telegram, the new darlings of the indie scene, will give local rock fans the chance to find out what the fuss is about at Birmingham's Hare and Hounds tonight (Thu).

Meanwhile, in the Kings Heath pub's other room that night will be fast-rising Mancunian indie rockers Spring King.

Brighton band Fickle Friends, fronted by singer Natassia Shiner, celebrate their new major label deal by playing Stourbridge River Rooms tomorrow (Fri). That's the same night the Kerrang! Tour rolls into Brum with Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM and Bitters at The O2 Institute in Digbeth.

Illusionists ready to do the Impossible

SPECTACULAR magic show Impossible is bringing six top illusionists and magicians to the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Tuesday to Saturday, February 20.

The show promises death-defying stunts, grand stage illusions and close-up magic. The line-up includes daredevil escapologist Jonathan Goodwin; from Britain's Got Talent, James More; Cirque du Soleil trickster Lee Thompson; London conjurer and break-dancer Magical Bones; mind reader Chris Cox; and former Young Magician of the Year Ben Hart. See www.atgtickets.com/birmingham for further details.

Classic rock and acoustic guitar

GRAHAM Bonnet, the voice of Rainbow's *Since You've Been Gone*, brings his band to Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow (Fri).

There's a treat for Pink Floyd fans on Saturday at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham when Symphonic Pink Floyd will be performing *Wish You Were Here* plus a selection of other Floyd favourites with a 55 piece orchestra, to the backdrop of Fritz Lang's early sci-fi classic *Metropolis*.

The Counterfeit Stones play Bilston's Robin 2 on Saturday. Acoustic fingerstyle guitarist Pete Kent is at the same venue on Wednesday, February 17.



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Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, February 11, 2016

CHOICE



Ricky Wilson

The Voice UK (BBC1, 7.15pm)

Time is running out for Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson to build their teams, as the contest reaches the sixth and penultimate round of 'blind auditions'. This week, the superstar coaches hear from former UK Eurovision entrant Paul Phoenix, and Mike Berry, the former pop star perhaps better known for his unique voice, and Jordan Gray, who hopes to offer an inspiring example with her performance. Plus, 21-year-old Jan from Cumbria, and Luton-based singer Mia Sylvester, both of whom have auditioned on The Voice in the past.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Ireland (Kick-off 2.25pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Scotland (Kick-off 4.50pm). **6.55** BBC News. **7.05** Regional Programme. **7.15** **The Voice UK.** Rocker Rick Snowdon and would-be inspiration Jordan Gray take to the stage, along with former Voice auditionees Mia Sylvester and Jan in the sixth round of 'blind auditions'. **8.30** **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Hannah and Joe from Eastbourne, East Sussex, seek to win items from their personal wish list. Plus, Wet Wet Wet join Gaby Roslin for the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws. **9.20** **Casualty.** Valentine's Day arrives in Holby, and for Connie, the day brings a reunion with old flame Sam, who has returned from New York with Connie's estranged daughter Grace. The pair's arrival on the ED is no social call, though, as Sam's new girlfriend Emma has fallen critically ill, and requires urgent surgery. Ethan is furious at Cal for his deception, and as tensions rise to boiling point, the pair end up brawling in resus. Elsewhere, Big Mac becomes an overnight celebrity. Lofy struggles with the management element of his new job, and Max arranges a date with a woman who looks remarkably like Zoe. Medical drama, starring Andrea Mealing. **10.10** BBC News; Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Sunderland v Manchester United and Chelsea v Newcastle United, National Lottery Update. **11.55** **Film: Meet the Parents.** (2000) A male nurse makes a disastrous bid to impress his girlfriend's father – a former CIA agent who does not suffer fools gladly. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller. **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 **Film: Battle Cry.** (1955) **8.45** **Film: The Desperados.** (1969) **10.10** **Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **11.10** **Natural World.** (R) **12.00** **James Martin: Home Comforts.** (R) **12.45** **Rick Stein's India.** (R) **1.45** **The Best Dishes Ever.** (R) **2.15** **Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman.** (R) **3.00** **Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.45** **Flag It!** (R) **4.30** **Final Score.** **5.30** **Earth's Greatest Spectacles.** (R) **6.30** **Back in Time for the Weekend.** The Ashby-Hawkins family sample life in the 1960s and with more money to go around, there's more fun to be had. Dad Rob and son Seth take on football legend Trevor Brooking for a game of Subuteo in the dining room, and Daisy and mum Steph meet Sandie Shaw to discover how the decade's daring fashions reflected the growing freedoms and confidence enjoyed by the younger generation. (R) **7.30** **Henry VII: Winter King.** Documentary in which author Thomas Penn examines the reign of the first Tudor monarch – from his victory at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 to his death in 1509. (R) **8.30** **Dad's Army.** A daring bid to rescue Walker and Godfrey from a stricken pumping station ends with Mainwaring and his whole platoon trapped and facing the prospect of drowning. (R) **9.00** **The Real Marigold Hotel.** The group enjoy the final week of their experiment in Jaipur and attend one of the highlights of the Hindu calendar, the Ganesh Chaturti festival. Last in the series. (R) **10.00** **Live at the Apollo.** Katherine Ryan compers an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing and introducing routines by guests Henning Wehn and James Acaster. (R) **10.45** **Insert Name Here.** Paul Hollywood, Kate Williams, Joe Lycett and Sara Pascoe join Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer questions about famous people who share a name. Last in the series. (R) **11.15** **Film: There Will Be Blood.** (2007) A prospector's single-minded pursuit of wealth leads him into conflict with a priest over control of an oil-rich town. Historical drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Paul Dano. **1.45** **Film: Primeval.** (2007) **3.10** **This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** **Film: Columbus.** It's All in the Game. (1993) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.20** (TV News; Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **1.30** Judge Rinder. **2.30** Tipping Point. (R) **3.30** Doc Martin. (R) **4.30** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** ITV News; Weather. **6.30** **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates more comical viewer-submitted videos, including an old lady cooed in silly string, and a boy's unfortunate encounter with a pelican. **7.00** **Ninja Warrior UK.** The grand final arrives, and Ben Shepherd, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara invite the 15 most successful competitors to compete for the title of Ninja Warrior UK. Last in the series. **8.00** **Take Me Out.** Scott, a mannequin sculptor from London, Leeds-based dentist Keshav, Newcastle electrician Cory and Adam, a labourer from Bedfordshire enter the 'love lift' in the hope of impressing Paddy McGuinness's 30 single women. However, to win a date they must first convince the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Plus, Paddy provides an update on last week's couples from the Isle of Fernandos. **9.20** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** Sacha Baron Cohen joins Jonathan in the studio, in-character as Nobby, the star of his latest comedy outing Grimby. Plus, Stephen Fry, Amy Poehler and Shawn Mendes. **10.20** (TV News; Weather. **10.35** **Film: Twins.** (1988) Genetically designed twin brothers who were separated at birth set out on an adventure in search of their unknown mother. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. **12.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** (TV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Frostgun Invitational. **7.30** Tenerife Blue Trail. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Warwick. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.00** **Come Dine with Me.** Businesswoman Tracy hosts the final dinner party in Weston-super-Mare. Her evening includes dance lessons in black-tie dress code, and steak cooked to order. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on another waterways adventure, starting in the romantic city of Oxford, where they began their courtship many years ago. They follow the gentle contours of the Oxford Canal through the Cherwell Valley, where they meet novelist Philip Pullman and are joined by their son, fellow actor Samuel West. (R) **8.00** **Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** New series. The actress is in Devon and Cornwall as she explores more of the nation's smallest communities, visiting a former silver-mining village and a cliff-edge fishing village. Previously seen on More4. **9.00** **Film: Escape Plan.** (2013) Premiere. A security expert is framed for a crime he did not commit, and sent to an escape-proof prison of his own design. He hatches a plan to break out, but to succeed he will need the help of a long-term convict – who wants his own freedom in return for assistance. Thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.20** **Film: Predator.** (1987) Soldiers on a mission in a Central American jungle is stalked by an invisible alien hunter in search of human prey. Sci-fi thriller, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Carl Weathers. **1.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.35** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.20** 1001 Things You Should Know. (R) **5.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Fails & Flops. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **2.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **6.00** **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** The documentary focuses on two disputes that developed from complaints about noise-making. (R) **6.55** **5 News Weekend.** **7.00** **World War II in Colour.** A look at how Nazi U-boats' efforts to sever transatlantic supply lines and the Allied firebombing of German cities affected the course of the conflict as efforts were made to develop new weapons and strategies to bring a rapid end to hostilities. (R) **8.00** **Nazi Secret for the Holy Grail.** Documentary examining the story of the Nazis' mission to rediscover the lost Aryan race and retrieve their forgotten secrets – including the Holy Grail. (R) **9.00** **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches in the Championship, including Queens Park Rangers v Fulham and Reading v Burnley. **10.00** **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, including Coventry City v Bury and York City v Notts County. **10.30** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The boyfriend of a missing woman implicates her ex-convict neighbour – who Stabler helped put in prison 19 years earlier. Guest starring Stephen Rea. (R) **11.25** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Benson and Stabler are called on to investigate when a man contacts the police after discovering a dead woman in his bed. Crime drama, starring Christopher Meloni. (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Great British Benefits Handout. (R) **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.20** HouseBusters. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.20** Don't Tell the Bride **8.20** Top Gear **9.20** **Film: Meet the Fockers** (2004) **11.10** Family Guy **1.00** Him & Her: The Wedding **3.30** The Revolution Will Be Televised **4.00** Close **BBC Four** **7.00** How Earth Made Us **8.00** Nelson's Caribbean Hell-Hole: An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered **9.00** Trapped **10.40** Motown at the BBC **11.40** Northern Soul: Living for the Weekend **12.40** Sing's Motown **1.40** Top of the Pops: 1981 **3.00** Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned **4.00** Close **ITV2** **11.00** Ninja Warrior UK **12.00** Scorpion **1.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.35** You've Been Framed! Gold The Next Generation **2.35** **Film: Beethoven** (1992) **4.25** Catchphrase **5.00** **Film: Despicable Me** (2010) **7.05** **Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (2008) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.20** Secret Dates **11.20** Ibiza Weekender **12.20** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.50** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **1.50** Reality Bites **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** (TV2) Nightscreen **ITV3** **11.40** A Touch of Frost **1.50** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes **4.00** **Film: Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore** (1976) **6.05** Midsummer Sketches **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Blue Murder **1.35** Man About the House **2.05** (TV3) Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **12.30** Live Snooker Shootout **5.20** Storage Wars **6.15** Football's Greatest: Zidane Zidane **6.30** Live Snooker Shootout **11.20** **Film: The Long Kiss Goodnight** (1996) **1.45** River Monsters **2.40** (TV4) Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** The Goldbergs **1.30** The Jump **3.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film: Magic Mike** (2012) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Virtually Famous **2.10** The It Crowd **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.45** Rules of Engagement **4.30** Revenge **Film4** **11.00** Bugsy Malone (1976) **1.00** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **3.05** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **5.00** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **6.55** Field of Dreams (1989) **9.00** Ted (2012) **11.05** Evil Dead (2013) **1.00** Intruders (2011) **3.10** Close

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CHOICE



Dylan Hartley

Live Six Nations Rugby Union (Kick-off 2.00pm). Coverage of the match from Stadio Olimpico in Rome, where the second round of fixtures is brought to a conclusion. England have never lost against the Italians, and when they last travelled to the Eternal City for a Six Nations encounter they recorded an emphatic 52-11 victory, scoring seven tries in the process. The Azzurri will certainly look to improve on that performance, and on their showing in last year's tournament as a whole, when they managed one victory over Scotland but were soundly beaten by the rest of the opposition, which included home losses to Ireland, France and Wales.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** The Truth About Fat. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** Nature's Miracle Orphans. **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore the Norfolk Broads, meeting student gamekeepers, learning how to prepare venison, and discovering how a naturalist has helped cranes to return to the area after 400 years. Adam Henson visits a farm where egg production is being carried out on a massive scale, including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** Call the Midwife. Dr Turner and Shelagh are at the forefront of the advances in medical technology, and begin a campaign to ensure better respiratory health for their patients. However, Timothy fears their own lifestyle is not good for them and tries to encourage his parents to give up smoking. Violet injures her back and is forced to leave the shop in Fred's hands, a decision that strengthens their relationship but which proves to have other, unforeseen consequences. **9.00** British Academy Film Awards. Coverage of the awards ceremony, hosted by Stephen Fry from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Films in the running for awards this year are The Revenant, Ex Machina, Spotlight, The Danish Girl, Amy, The Big Short, Bridge of Spies, Carol, 45 Years, Amy, Brooklyn and The Lobster, while actors nominated for awards include Michael Fassbender, Eddie Redmayne, Cate Blanchett, Maggie Smith, Idris Elba, Christian Bale, Kate Winslet and Julie Walters. **11.00** BBC News. **11.20** Regional Programme. **11.30** Film: While You Were Sleeping. (1995) A train-station attendant poses as the fiancée of a comatose man, but ends up in a quandary when she falls for his brother. Romantic comedy, with Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman. **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.30** The Secret History of the British Garden. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **9.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Coast. (R) **1.30** Film: 84 Charing Cross Road. (1987) Romantic drama, starring Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins. **3.00** Film: The Importance of Being Earnest. (2002) Oscar Wilde comedy, starring Rupert Everett and Colin Firth. **4.30** Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? (R) **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.15** Ski Sunday. Action from the women's downhill race at the World Cup event in Crans Montana, Switzerland, where American Lindsey Vonn will be the focus of much attention. **7.00** Six Nations Highlights. John Inverdale is joined by Lewis Moody and Jonathan Davies to present action from the second round of the 2016 championship, featuring France v Ireland at Stade de France, Wales v Scotland at Principality Stadium, and Italy v England at Stadio Olimpico. **8.00** Greece with Simon Reeve. Part two of two. Simon travels from the Peloponnese peninsula into the mountainous north of the country. He meets local people including a group of rebel monks and conservationists caring for an injured bear, and discovers how they are coping with the political crises affecting Greece. **9.00** Chinese New Year: The Biggest Celebration on Earth. New series. Series exploring new year celebrations in China, through the personal stories of people involved in traditional celebrations, as well as those whose livelihoods are dependant on the holiday. **10.00** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which were Arsenal v Leicester City, Aston Villa v Liverpool, and Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur. **11.10** Film: Tron: Legacy. (2010) A man searching for his father is sucked into a computer-generated world and must compete in gladiatorial combat. Sci-fi adventure, starring Jeff Bridges and Garrett Hedlund. **1.05** Film: Steel. (2002) 2.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holy City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.15** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Film: Columbo: Murder with Too Many Notes. (2000) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Off Their Rockers. (R) **1.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v England (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.30** Big Box Little Box. (R) **5.00** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.15** ITV News: Weather. **6.35** Planet's Got Talent. Unusual acts including an Indian contestant who gets run over by a steamroller, a Chinese yo-yo master and a dog that sings Whitney Houston songs. Narrated by Warwick Davis. **7.05** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. A fearsome clan of raiders launches a surprise attack on Herot, and Beowulf has to come up with a strategy to outwit his enemies and protect his own tribe. **8.00** Vera. DCI Stanhope and her team, including new recruit DC Hicham Cherradi, travel to a remote country house when the woman looking after it is killed. No sooner have they arrived, than a second body is discovered. Vera discovers the two victims met the night before their deaths, and goes in search of a connection between them. Forensics evidence reveals that one was definitely present when the other died. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** Rookies. Documentary filmed over the course of a year following trainee officers in Lincolnshire Police. (R) **11.15** Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 12th round of fixtures, including Northampton Saints v London Irish, Newcastle Falcons v Leicester Tigers, Sale Sharks v Exeter Chiefs and Saracens v Wasps. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **2.35** Film: The Harry Hill Movie. (2013) Premiere. Comedy, starring Harry Hill. **4.20** The Simpsons. (R) **4.50** The Simpsons. (R) **5.20** Channel 4 News. **5.40** Film: Mr Popper's Penguins. (2011) Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **7.30** The Jump. Davina McCall presents the third stage of the winter sports challenge as the celebrity contestants face their fastest challenge so far in the speed ski event. The losing competitor from each race will then have to take part in the Jump to decide which of them will be eliminated from the contest. **9.00** Deutschland 83. Double bill. Moritz receives a shocking order, and realises the extent of his superior's paranoia when a training exercise in the West is mistaken for a preemptive attack. He returns to the East in a bid to prevent a war and finds himself an outcast on both sides of the Iron Curtain, but risks his life to save Yvonne from the Stasi. Ingrid comes to Thomas's rescue, and Alex is forced to confront his own demons. In German. Last in the series. **10.45** Film: Predator 2. (1990) A tough cop investigating a series of gruesome murders discovers it is the work of an alien that kills for sport. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Danny Glover and Bill Paxton. **12.45** Embarrassing Bodies: Back to the Clinic. Christian Jessen, Pixie McKenna and Dawn Harper revisit patients from previous clinics to catch up with the state of their health. (R) **1.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Undercover Boss USA. Catherine Monson, president and CEO of Fastsigns International, goes undercover to learn more about the manufacturing side of the company. (R) **4.55** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. In this bite-sized edition, Kirstie Allsopp competes in the Something New from Something Old competition at the Royal Walsley Show, creating vintage paper jewellery. (R) **5.05** Beat My Build. Renovation challenge in which two builders are pitted against one another to overshadow their competitor's work and make the most profit from their project. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.25** Lazy Town. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.10** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45** Film: Mr Holland's Opus. (1995) Drama, starring Richard Dreyfuss. **3.20** Film: Housewife. (1992) Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn. **5.20** Film: What a Girl Wants. (2003) Comedy, starring Amanda Bynes. **7.25** 5 News Weekend. **7.30** Film: Jumper. (2008) A man discovers he has the ability to teleport, a talent he cleverly exploits to rob banks undetected while living a life of luxury all over the world. However, he soon learns he is not the only one with this power – and that a secret society of religious fanatics is determined to wipe out him and all of his kind. Fantasy thriller, with Hayden Christensen, Jamie Bell and Samuel L Jackson. Edited for language. **9.00** Film: Homefront. (2013) Premiere. A drug enforcement agent quits his job and relocates to a small town hoping to protect his daughter from the violent world he has to deal with. However, he is forced back into his old life when he finds his new home has a criminal underbelly dominated by a narcotics kingpin. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham, James Franco and Winona Ryder. Edited for language. **11.05** Film: Revolver. (2005) A gambler is helped by two enigmatic loan sharks to exact revenge on his deranged former boss for landing him in jail. Guy Ritchie's crime drama, with Jason Statham and Ray Liotta. **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Prison Brides. The phenomenon of weddings conducted inside prisons. (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Great Scientists. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D 7.10 The Voice UK 8.30 EE British Academy Film Awards: Red Carpet 9.00 Film: Little Fockers (2010) 10.30 Russell Howard's Good News 11.05 Family Guy 12.30 Russell Howard's Good News 1.00 Professor Green: Hidden and Homeless 2.00 Siblings 3.00 Murder Games: The Life and Death of Breck Bednar 4.00 Close **BBC Four** **7.00** Horizon: Swallowed by a Black Hole 8.00 The Sky at Night 8.30 Canals – The Making of a Nation 9.00 Storrville: Decadence & Downfall – The Shah of Iran's Ultimate Party 10.15 Film: Therese Desqueyroux (2012) 10.20 Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark 1.00 Canals – The Making of a Nation 1.30 Rock 'n' Roll America 2.30 Sounds of the Eighties 3.00 Singer-Songwriters at the BBC 4.00 Close **ITV2** **11.55** Take Me Out 1.05 Take Me Out – The Gossip 2.10 Film: The Perfect Man (2005) 4.15 Film: Legally Blonde (2001) 6.10 Catchphrase Celebrity Couples Special 7.15 Film: Along Came Polly (2004) 9.00 Ibiza Weekender 10.00 Love Fix 11.00 Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) 1.15 Release the Hounds 2.05 Planet's Funniest Animals 2.30 Teleshopping **ITV3** **12.25** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 1.35 The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes 3.55 Lewis 6.00 Midsomer Murders 8.00 Bargain Round Britain with John Sergeant 9.00 Caroline Quentin: A Passage Through India 10.00 Mrs Biggs 11.00 Film: The Constant Gardener (2005) 1.30 Ghostboat 2.45 A Touch of Frost 4.30 On the Buses 5.20 Judge Judy 5.45 ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4** **11.30** Pawn Stars 1.30 Live Snooker Shootout 4.15 Storage Wars: Texas 5.10 The Classic Car Show 6.15 Goals of the 90s 6.30 Live Snooker Shootout 9.20 Film: Sudden Impact (1983) 11.45 Film: Mercury Rising (1998) 2.00 X Men 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping **E4** **12.30** Couples Come Dine with Me 2.30 Film: Fury Vengeance (2010) 4.20 Rude(s) Tube Shorts 4.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 11.00 Rude Tube 12.05 The Inbetweeners 1.10 The IT Crowd 2.10 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.55 The Inbetweeners 3.45 Hollyoaks **Film4** **11.00** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) 1.00 Pride and Prejudice (2005) 3.40 Anna Karenina (2012) 6.25 Twilight (2008) 9.00 Kick-Ass (2010) 11.15 Compliance (2012) 1.00 Wild Things (1998) 3.15 Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Trespass, Channel 5, 11pm

A couple are held hostage in their own home by four masked criminals, who want the contents of their safe. The situation forces them to examine the secrets they are hiding from each other, while the criminals are also driven to reflect on the events that have set them on this course of action. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Nicole Kidman. (2011)

TUESDAY

The Restless Breed, BBC2, 11am

A former secret service agent's son journeys to the frontier, hellbent on avenging his father's murder at the hands of outlaws. Western, with Scott Brady. (1957)

WEDNESDAY

Because I Said So, Channel 4, 1.05am

A meddling mother becomes increasingly worried that her youngest daughter, who has a string of short-lived relationships under her belt, is doomed to fail in matters of the heart. She places a carefully worded ad on the internet for a suitable man, but her interference results in a series of misunderstandings. Comedy drama, starring Diane Keaton. (2007)



Trespass, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY

The Wind and the Lion, BBC2, 11.10am

An American woman and her son are seized by a Moroccan chieftain in the 1900s, sparking an international incident. While President Roosevelt works on a plan to ensure their safe return, the hostage begins to sympathise with her captor's cause as they get caught up in a conflict with German forces. Period adventure, with Sean Connery. (1975)

FRIDAY

Backdraft, ITV, 11.10pm

The two sons of a fireman who died in the line of duty follow him into the profession. However, a feud develops between them because the elder brother is convinced his sibling is not up to the job - until a mission to uncover the identity of a serial arsonist gives him the chance to prove his worth. Action drama, starring Kurt Russell, William Baldwin, Robert De Niro and Donald Sutherland. (1991)

Cuba gets caught up in controversial case

Throughout most of 1995, the US was hooked by the lengthy, televised trial of OJ Simpson, the American football legend who stood accused of murdering his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

It was even dubbed the 'trial of the century', which may seem a little overblown until you consider how the case seemed to raise much bigger questions than whether or not Simpson was innocent, touching on race and celebrity culture.

And it's becoming a talking point all over again thanks to the new drama series The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story, which has been picking up rave reviews since it began airing in the US earlier this month.

Now the show is coming to the UK, although given the intense media coverage Simpson received back in the 1990s, some viewers may be wondering what there is left to say.

Luckily, the BBC has thought of that. Sue Deeks, Head of BBC Programme Acquisition, says: "I am so excited for BBC viewers to see this series. The

People v OJ Simpson is a fascinating and totally absorbing dramatisation of a case seared into the public consciousness. It is a case that you might think you know all about - but believe me, you don't know the half of it..."

In particular, the series looks at the legal teams who were battling to either convict or acquit Simpson, showing how the prosecution's over-confidence, some shrewd work by the defence team, and the Los Angeles Police Department's history with the city's African-American community all played a part in the eventual verdict.

If the fascinating true-life story wasn't enough to hook you in, the series is executive produced by Ryan Murphy, whose previous credits include Glee and American Horror Story, and boasts an incredible cast, including Cuba Gooding Jr as OJ Simpson, and John Travolta and David Schwimmer as defence attorneys Robert Shapiro and Robert 'father of Kim' Kardashian.

The cast are all aware of the responsibility involved in portraying real-life characters, but they have chosen to approach it in different ways.

Selma Blair, who plays Kardashian's wife Kris, met her real-life inspiration, and struck up a friendship - Kris even volunteered to dig out her 1990s clothes for the actress to wear on screen.

Chief prosecutor Marcia Clark didn't make actress Sarah Paulson a similar offer - instead she apologised that Paulson was going to have to adopt her hairstyle, which came in for a surprising amount of comment during the trial.

However, one person who didn't want to meet their real-life counterpart was Gooding Jr. He told the New York Post: "I didn't reach out to [Simpson's] kids. I didn't reach out to him. I didn't want a definitive opinion of his guilt or innocence."

But he has said that the series has brought it home to him that whatever you believe, the Goldmans and the Browns still suffered a devastating loss, and should not be forgotten.

The first episode offers another reminder, as the victims' bodies are discovered. The LAPD quickly link the killings to Simpson, although his fame leaves them unsure how to proceed.



Cuba Gooding Jr stars in The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The X-Files

Channel 5, 9pm

Mulder and Scully arrive at Nugenics Technology to investigate the suicide of a scientist, only to find that the department of defence has put the facility on lockdown. They uncover evidence that extreme genetic experimentation has been going on for decades, breeding subjects who possess unexpected and dangerous powers - and Scully begins to wonder whether Nugenics had anything to do with her own pregnancy 15 years previously. Sci-fi drama, starring Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny.

Crashing

Channel 4, 10pm

Anthony and Lulu look for Kate and while their search takes a number of unexpected turns, the object of their quest drowns her sorrows with Fred - who receives some valuable advice from Jessica. Colin and Melody attempt to get back to normal, until he suffers an unfortunate incident, and Sam's life begins to unravel as he lashes out at those closest to him. Comedy, written by and starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge, with Jonathan Bailey, Julie Dray, Amit Shah, Damien Molony and Louise Ford. Last in the series.

TUESDAY

It's Not Rocket Science

ITV, 8pm

Over the years there have been plenty of fun science strands, from Don't Ask Me in the 1970s, to more recent offerings such as Brainiac. Now ITV are unveiling their latest take on the genre, and with the presence of Ben Miller, Rachel Riley and Romesh Ranganathan, you know you're in safe hands. In the first offering, Olympic hopeful Adam Gemili races against a Red Arrow, Rachel travels through a wall of fire at 450 degree centigrade, and Ben uses the power of Joey Essex's brain to drive a car.

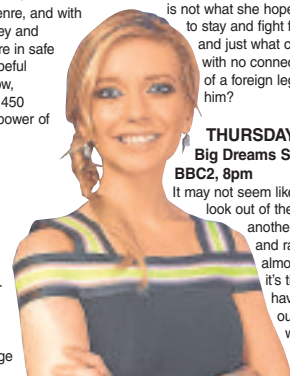
WEDNESDAY

One Child

BBC2, 9pm

It was announced last year that China was to end its one-child policy, but the decades-long law and its effects provide the starting point for this three-part drama. Mei (Harry Potter actress Katie Leung) was adopted from China as a baby, and has enjoyed a happy childhood in the UK with little knowledge of her roots. So, she's understandably stunned when a

Chinese journalist contacts her to say that her birth mother needs her help because the brother Mei never even knew existed is on Death Row for a crime he didn't commit. Keeping the full extent of the story from her adoptive parents, Mei flies out to her birthplace, but the first meeting with her mother is not what she hoped for. Will she decide to stay and fight for her sibling anyway, and just what can a young woman with no connections or knowledge of a foreign legal system do to free him?



It's Not Rocket Science, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

THURSDAY

Big Dreams Small Spaces

BBC2, 8pm

It may not seem like it when you take a look out of the window to see yet another day of cold, wind and rain - but spring is almost upon us. Therefore it's time for many, if you haven't already, to get out in the garden. But what do you do if your land is a tad too small to create the ambitious

outdoor setting you have always dreamed of? Well never fear, Monty Don is returning with a new series of the show in which he helps more amateur horticulturalists transform their small or average-sized plots into something extraordinary. In Salisbury, newly engaged couple Glenn and Zoe want a new garden to produce flowers for their wedding. But unfortunately, their small, sloping plot seems completely unusable. Meanwhile, in Barnet, Monty gets to work on an overgrown allotment that owner Nighat wants to use as a site for keeping bees.

FRIDAY

Shetland

BBC1, 9pm

Dedicating an entire six-episode series to one story is working a treat. Usually, cases whip by in the blink of an eye, catering for viewers with short attention spans in the process. But this run of Shetland is more old-school, with time given to absorb what is happening as well as the subtleties of the tale and its characters. We're now looking forward to the penultimate edition, during which Perez must find a way to deal with what has happened to Tosh if he is to successfully conclude the case surrounding the deaths of Robbie Morton and Michael Thompson - but that proves to be far from easy.

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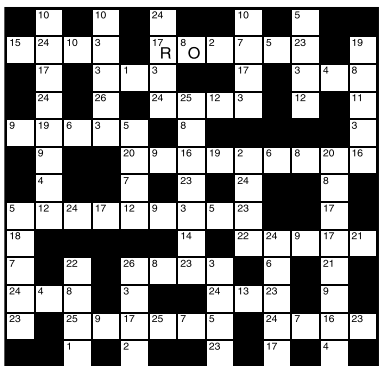
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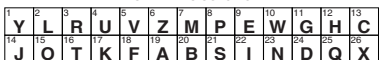
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

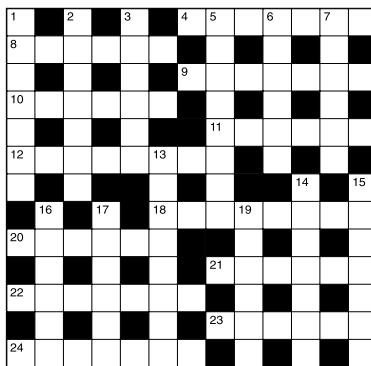
Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Forsake an orchestra when playing (7)
8. Something to eat for a canine with a high temperature? (3,3)
9. Rib male - it's more soothing! (7)
10. Keep near it (6)
11. Presumably he won't let anything slip out (6)
12. Father takes hire charge in his fatherly role (8)
18. Roasting at the keyboard? (8)
20. Make headlong progress in one's job? (6)
21. Trivial insult (6)
22. Join devout company in plenty (7)
23. Ring the bells again - get rid of the law! (6)
24. Law they break becoming rich (7)

Down

1. He is in the wrong party to get proper treatment (7)
2. Monument about right height (7)
3. A proposal to get things moving? (6)
5. The difference between him and his workmates is striking (8)
6. A figure that makes one lose all feeling? (6)
7. The old boy got a look and did as he was told (6)
13. Comprehensive even if short and unrefined (8)
14. Circle to allow curl (7)
15. Imposing let-up in support (7)
16. Plea or word of honour (6)
17. Lie and contradiction (6)
19. Please become dead to the world (6)



Quick Clues:

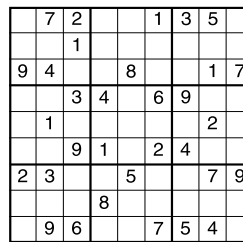
Across

4. At mid-point (7)
8. Inhuman (6)
9. Insult (7)
10. Demur (6)
11. Riot (6)
12. Clerical residence (8)
18. Gap (8)
20. Lower (6)
21. Caress (6)
22. Sundry (7)
23. Hand-gun (6)
24. Quill (7)

Down

1. Pardon (7)
2. Theme (7)
3. Zodiac sign (6)
5. Abounding (8)
6. Enthusiasm (6)
7. Yearly (6)
13. Estrange (8)
14. Greed (7)
15. Aged (7)
16. Strict (6)
17. Obvious (6)
19. Foreign (6)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Shop windows; 9 Eve; 10 Town-crier; 11 Sial; 13 Raiment; 14 Clasp; 16 Regime; 18 Network; 19 Stead; 20 Spaghetti; 21 Bow; 22 Set to rights. Down: 2 Hoe; 3 Petal; 4 Inward; 5 Decline; 6 White wine; 7 Sea-sickness; 8 Written down; 12 Smart pace; 15 Prophet; 17 Skater; 19 Sling; 21 Bit. QUICK - Across: 1 Happy medium; 9 Rod; 10 Newspaper; 11 Appal; 13 Reserve; 14 Normal; 16 Attach; 18 Private; 19 Widen; 20 Eliminate; 21 One; 22 Undertaking. Down: 2 Aid; 3 Penal; 4 Mowers; 5 Deposit; 6 Upper hand; 7 Great-nephew; 8 Freethinker; 12 Perdition; 15 Avarice; 17 Depart; 19 Wreck; 21 Own.

Quiz

1. What is a cicatrice?
2. In which year did Enid Blyton die?
3. What is the northernmost of the four main islands of Japan?
4. What was Ho Chi-Minh city known as prior to 1976?
5. What nationality was the composer Georges Auric?
6. What sort of bridge is the Forth rail bridge?
7. What was the soldier Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar more commonly known as?
8. How many lbs in a cwt?
9. In which year did Edward VIII die?
10. Approximately how many million Model T Ford cars were manufactured?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 India; 2 Francois Truffaut; 3 A fish; 4 German; 5 Ernest Rutherford; 6 Port-au-Prince; 7 Nebuchadnezzar; 8 17th; 9 Mg; 10 1980.
- Niner: DEPARTING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

957183 gives an entertainer,
123548 gives a clergyman,
4356788 gives a novice.



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On the move – travelling around by cable car



The Sir Francis Drake is an opulent 1920s building



A must visit – cycle across the iconic Golden Gate Bridge



Streets are packed with different shops

Golden! Foodies will definitely leave their heart in San Francisco

IN the words of the great Tony Bennett, 'I left my heart in San Francisco'.

A flying visit will leave you breathless, from the sights, the tastes and from slogging up and down those famous hills.

Thank heavens for the equally famous trolley buses, which combine charm with practicality when getting around a city that is very well served for public transport.

There is just so much to see, from the Golden Gate Bridge and its park to Fisherman's Wharf, the shopping delights of Union Square, Haight Ashbury (home of the hippies) and Alcatraz, the famous island prison in San Francisco Bay.

And getting there from the West Midlands is a breeze, flying from Birmingham to New York's Newark Airport and then on

Simon Penfold reports

to San Francisco itself with United Airlines. It takes about a day, and your body clock will be all over the place, but the flights are punctual and very comfortable indeed.

Travelling business class, with good food and seats that turn into beds, takes any pain out of the process.

Shopping

Book into a hotel and head off to check out the late night shopping in nearby Union Square – Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue – and a few local beers at Sam's Cable Car Lounge.

Quality food is a signature of San Francisco. This city has more restaurants per head of population than anywhere else in the US of A. It must be possible to find a bad meal in San Francisco, but I didn't.

And then there is the beer. America has discovered the joys of really good craft ale.

The food and drink is just part of what sets San Francisco apart from just about anywhere else in the United States. There's an individuality about the place.

Our hotel captured that individuality. The Sir Francis Drake is an opulent 1920s building just up Powell Street from Union Square. It has style and character as well as all mod cons, and its name is a reminder that the first Westerner to discover this place was the famous Elizabethan sailor. Presumably because of this links the hotel's doormen are dressed in befeater outfits.

There is so much to see and do in this city that a visit to the websites run by Visit California and San Francisco Travel are a must. One of the most useful things you can do is sort out a CityPASS ticket booklet, which gives a week's unlimited use of cable cars

and the local Muni transport system, access to attractions such as the Aquarium of the Bay and even a one-hour cruise of the Bay.

For any movie goer, of course, San Francisco is the city where Steve McQueen raced around the streets in Bullitt. And there's the windy Lombard Street with its eight hairpin bends that has featured in virtually every film ever made in the city.

Aside from the movies, there are hotels, galleries and places to go and stand and stare. One place that cannot be missed is Alcatraz. Boat tours run out to the island several times a day. One of the world's most legendary prisons, it is a gloomy and oppressive but in remarkably good condition considering the last prisoner left in 1963. On a brighter note you can hire a cycle and ride across the Golden Gate Bridge. The views are stunning and, in any visit to San Francisco, a visit to the bridge is a must.

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NEW



WIMBOURNE ROAD, EDGBASTON

Well proportioned 3 BED (POTENTIALLY 4 BED) intermediate family home, HANDY FOR BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE, gch & dg, offering 3 RECEPTION ROOMS, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, shower room (PREVIOUSLY BED 4), bathroom, rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E.

BEARWOOD

£150,000

NEW



SALOP ROAD, OLDBURY

2 DOUBLE bedroom home (previously 3 bed) with GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN and OFF ROAD PARKING, dg & gch, having spacious lounge, SUPER RE-FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN (with integrated appliances), BATHROOM, shower room. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD

£114,950

NEW



MAPLE ROAD, HALESOWEN

NO CHAIN - MODERNISED terraced home with 2 reception rooms, 17ft REFITTED kitchen & REFITTED bathroom with white suite. 3 bedrooms & WC on 1st floor. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. Lawn garden to rear with SOUTHERLY aspect. EPC rating: TBC

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QUINTON

£169,950



ABBEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

EXTENDED home overlooking WARLEY WOODS park with GARAGE & driveway. 15ft dining room & 17ft lounge leading to EXTENDED 14ft kitchen. 3 GOOD size bedrooms & bathroom with white suite. Lawn rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: F

BEARWOOD

£219,950



MARSHALL STREET, SMETHWICK

EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, modern semi detached, offering flexible living accommodation, with double glazing, gas radiator heating, Entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), delightful lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 5 BEDROOMS (originally 6), MASTER WITH SHOWER ROOM EN-SUITE, bathroom, GARAGE, rear garden. EPC C.

BEARWOOD

£235,000



SHENSTONE VALLEY RD, HALESOWEN

LARGE family home with 5 DOUBLE bedrooms on private CORNER PLOT. 2 large reception rooms lead to CONSERVATORY. REFITTED breakfast kitchen & utility room. Master bedroom having EN-SUITE. Family bathroom with corner bath. DOUBLE garage & driveway. PRIVATE rear garden with patio. EPC rating: C

QUINTON

£424,995



KENELM COURT, ROMSLEY

Superbly appointed DETACHED BUNGALOW. Occupying CUL-DE-SAC position within sought after VILLAGE. REFITTED kitchen. Lounge/dining room over looking gardens. OFF ROAD PARKING & enclosed rear garden with patio. 2 bedrooms & bathroom. EPC RATING: C

QUINTON

£169,950



PRIMROSE BANK, OLDBURY

Spacious semi detached property, occupying a pleasant CUL-DE-SAC position with NO UPWARD CHAIN, having gas radiator heating, having Entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), spacious lounge, dining area, kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 BEDROOMS, bathroom, GARAGE, rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D.

BEARWOOD

£130,000



KINSEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

LARGE TOP FLOOR apartment with 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & study area. Having 14ft lounge diner leading to study area & FITTED kitchen. EN-SUITE shower room off bedroom one. Main bathroom also with a white fitted suite. ALLOCATED parking. UPVC DG & electric heating fitted. EPC rating: D

BEARWOOD

£120,000



FRANCIS ROAD, SMETHWICK

SPACIOUS, 2 DOUBLE bed semi detached property, conveniently situated, requiring inter-nal inspection, having majority DG, Entrance vestibule, attractive lounge, breakfast kitchen, D/S WC, UPSTAIRS bathroom, and pleasant well maintained rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC F.

BEARWOOD

£115,000



ROWAY LANE, OLDBURY

SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY with well proportioned accommodation, gas radiator heating, double glazing, having Entrance vestibule, SPACIOUS THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING AREA, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 BEDROOMS, pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating D.

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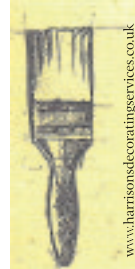
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1

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3

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**Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake
Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB**

Classified Ads

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funeral directors

N.E.DOWNING
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent
family run
Funeral Directors
24 hour service
Halesowen
0121 422 2794
www.nedowning.co.uk

1

Family

baby needs

WANTED
Stair gates.
01902 731514.

clothing - mens

MENS LEATHER biker jacket, large,
skull on back, £45 ono.
07466 425607.

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Very good condition. Fits easily
in a car boot. Ideal for shopping
and holidays. New batteries.
Can deliver.
£285.
07905 770683.

MOBILITY SCOOTER wanted, must
fit in boot and be good condition,
pay up to £150. 07471 792847.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384
255019 / 07831 246292.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS recondi-
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

SWIFT CHALLENGER, 1999
4-berth, 18ft, rear bathroom,
shower / toilet, blow air heating,
full oven / cooker, new full
awning, alcho hitch, owner non
smoker, extras, excellent,
£2,650 ono.
07549 584487.

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED any-
thing considered. New or Old
01902 754011 or 07931 568716

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday 14th February
KINVER COMMUNITY
CENTRE
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

music shop

ENCORE ELECTRIC acoustic
guitar with a Binatone amp, £100
ono. 01384 442158.

sports & leisure

Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY

For items up to £250.

Online at

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PRO TREADMILL, time, distance,
speed, incline, calorie count, heart
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what's on

antique fairs

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FRIDAY 12TH FEB & 18TH MAR
8.00AM - 4PM
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3
Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

MATCHBOX CONVOY (Icraed
Truckers) series collection £100.
Buraço 3 Iconic 1930 racers, £10
each. 01384 370239.

furniture

DARK MAHOGANY extending
dining table with six chairs, very
good condition, £80 ono. Buyer
must collect. 01384 638189.

LUXURY CANE
CONSERVATORY SUITE
Unused 2015 design, 2 seater,
2 armchairs, excellent quality
chenille cushions, still wrapped,
can deliver, cost £1,495.
Accept £495.
07968 731896.

SIDEBOARD £80. Ikea 2 double
wardrobes. £70 for both. Lewis
chest of 3 drawers. £30. Good con-
dition. 07899 307165.

THREE SEATER AND TWO
SEATER SETTEE
Belgium manufacture, oak
frame, drop on cushions, beige
leather, excellent condition.
£400.
Telephone 07746 143950.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER excellent condi-
tion. Can deliver. £25.
07464 026970.

FRIDGE MASTER fridge freezer.
Free. 8 weeks old, still under
warranty. Half list price. £125.
07790 463783.

in your garden

LAWN TRACTOR
22hp, 42 inch cut with collector,
totally new and unused, cost
£3,500, will accept, £1,850.
Can deliver.
07710 169150.

items wanted

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique
guns, taxidermy- big bore guns,
traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS
wanted by private collector.

P102 contact 01902 676540.

READERS ARE ADVISED to care-
fully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of
their items.

DARK OAK Glass wall unit, £125
ono, two drop leaf tables, £40 each
ono. Whirlpool Freezer, £50. All
good condition. 0121 520 8635.

NEST OF tables, £15. China
cabinet, £100. Telephone table with
seat, £50. All dark wood. Small
fridge freezer, £50. 07754 910211.

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 AERIAL INTO 4 ROOMS
FITTED FROM £130
WE WILL BEAT ANY
WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
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01922 716029
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alarms/security

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Supplied and Fitted £195
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12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
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Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
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carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

fencing

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on 10 Bays 3695. 07866 137656/
0121 5315250 portwayfencing.com

flooring

UNEVEN FLOOR?
SPECIALIST IN GRINDING AND
PREPARING FLOORS READY FOR ANY
FLOORCOVERING, TILES ETC.
SANDING, GRADING AND REPAIRS
FREE ADVICE & ESTIMATES
MARK 07770 686 444

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden. 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

home improvements

Local Handyman
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Electrical, Plumbing, Painting, etc. Fully
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house clearances

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
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GARAGES / SHEDS,
RUBBISH REMOVED
WASTE LICENSE
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07711661135

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for house clearances and bereavements.
Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed
Carriers licence held
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

painters / decorators

C.C. PAINTING & DECORATING
best quotes around. OAPs 20% off.
07874 814922 / 01902 632851.
MTK PAINTER & DECORATOR
Competitive quotes. OAP discounts
01384 340930 / 07825 558940.

removals

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items,
flat/house removals/clearances,
local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121
422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

Stourbridge Removals
20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office,
Part loads, landlord
clean & repair service.
House clearances.
Quality service guaranteed
lowest rates
Call John - 07802 876 876
office - 01562 640 640

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof
repairs, fascias and gutters. Call
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skip hire

BLITZ SKIPS
AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS
AVAILABLE
PUNJABI SPEAKERS
MONDAY-SATURDAY
7AM-6PM
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GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD.
Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast,
friendly & reliable service. Monday
to Saturday, 6 day service. Call:
0121 555 6060.

4

Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer.
1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

GERMAN SHEPHERD puppies, 8
weeks old, parents can be seen,
£325. 07572 687123.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE
COULD BE
PROMOTING
YOUR
BUSINESS

Every day our
customers get a
great response
from Classified
Advertising.

So could you by
calling our friendly
experienced Sales
Advisors on
01902 319191.

5
Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to
take appropriate professional
advice before entering any obli-
gations.

6
Property

accommodation to let

A FURNISHED flat for single mature
responsible worker. £380pcm, inc
all bills, cleaning/linen. Stafford
Road, no DSS. 07957 595840.

A TWO BED FLAT off Tettenhall Rd.
CH, DG. Off road parking. £115.50
pw 01902 340079 / 07770 660635.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an
offence under the Accommodation
Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency
to charge a fee simply for the regis-
tration of your requirements and/or
supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY AREA
Nice One-Bed Flat To Let.
CH, fitted kitchen.
£110pwk.
Including Gas, Electric,
Council tax and Water.
No Pets / DSS.
Telephone 07803 890908.

ONE BED FLAT Willenhall, CH, DG,
some bills inc. DSS considered
£100pw. 07956 163379.

houses for sale

BUY TO LET OPPORTUNITY 3-bed
semi detached in Penn, currently
long term let at £600pcm/excellent
tenants. £152,000. 07779 445798.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments.

Express & Star

FANTASTIC HOME DELIVERY OFFER
GET YOUR PAPER DELIVERED SIX NIGHTS
FROM ONLY £1.65 PER WEEK.*



Just
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worth up to £25
for all direct debit
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*Your paper will be delivered for only £1.65 per week for the first two months
and discounted to £3.30 thereafter by signing up to direct debit. The
discounted £3.30 per week is based upon current cover price. Includes free
delivery. Direct debit collections are made monthly in arrears.

*This offer is not available to existing direct debit customers & applies where delivery network is in place.

and become one
of hundreds of
customers
who regularly
receive
exclusive
special offers
& discounts.

Classified Ads

properties wanted

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- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
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CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

0800 121 6007 **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

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WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!



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- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
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- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

WE ALSO BUY LAND

30 yrs

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Call now for the best price on your house

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*Terms apply

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01384 226086

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Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

Ring Paul 24/7local on

07870 341 089

Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

WORKING COUPLE WANT
2/3 bed house rented property
with grazing, outbuildings, possible
room for mushroom / tomato growing.
Anything considered, good references from
current landlord of 8 years.
07444 167462.

7

Jobs

part time - general

QUARRY FITTER / ASSISTANT MANAGER / MACHINE DRIVER

Working at our quarry near Junction 4 of the M5 this is a varied and interesting role. Applicants should have experience repairing vehicles or/and processing machinery. This is an opportunity for someone with the right background to progress into a management role. Applicants should possess a logical and professional approach to problem solving and be able to also drive the machinery in the quarry as part of their day to day role.

Please ring Sparky on 07795 106551 for a chat to see if this is the role for you.
Wildmoor Quarry Products,
Sandy Lane, Bromsgrove
B61 0QR.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

full time - general

Wyvern FURNITURE

Manufacturers of upholstered furniture require the

following EXPERIENCED personnel:

- UPHOLSTERY SUPERVISOR
- WOODMILL SUPERVISOR

Permanent, full time vacancies with

competitive rates of pay.

Apply, in writing, to

Kelvin Grainger, Production Director,
Wyvern Furniture,

Units 13/15 Hartlebury Trading Estate,

Nr Kidderminster, Worcs DY10 4JB

Or email: vacancies@wyvern-furniture.co.uk

Full Range Print Solutions

Business Development
Executive
Salary Negotiable

The creative team at Full Range Print Solutions are looking to add some energy to the mix, with the addition of a full time Business Development Executive. Based in Halesowen, West Midlands the independent printing business is seeking a vibrant and motivated individual with print experience to assist in growing and moving the company forward.

We are searching for an individual who possesses fire in their belly coupled with a proven track record in print and sales management. You will be expected to be self-motivated and able to work autonomously to generate sales in print services across the UK and Europe. Working in a small team you will be part of a dedicated and passionate environment where attention to detail and professionalism is paramount in the success of the role. Duties will include;

- Sales Generation
- Account Management
- Quotation Generation
- Travelling the UK

If this sounds like you and you're ready for the challenge of bringing a fresh modern approach to the business then we would love to hear from you. So what are we offering? For the right person we will negotiate a competitive salary and equip you with a laptop, phone, car allowance and offer you a PRP bonus and if that's not enough there is an opportunity for a possible share option in the company.

Interested candidates should send a CV and covering letter stating why they feel they are the right person for the job to the Managing Director at dean@fullrangeprintsolutions.co.uk. For any queries please email or call Dean Ford on 01562 814 894.

8

Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 320i M-SPORT 4 dr, 6sp, blue, 57 plate, FSH, 12 months MoT, good condition, £5,150 ono. W-ton 07916 61638 / 07543 237183.

BMW Z3 - 1.9

2001, finished in metallic silver, black interior and hood (electric) full history. Genuine 22,000 miles, new tyres, excellent condition, fully serviced, fully equipped. MoT.

£4,500.

01902 758833

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget. Packages start from as little as

£21.00 for 6 nights Plus 6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL

01902 317878

CITROEN C1 VTR 2009, 59k, 3dr, £20 road tax, red, economical, MoT, smashing car, £2,490 ono. 07791 808779.

FIAT 500 Twin Air Lounge, 11 reg, 0.9 litre Turbo, red, 47k, £0 road tax, cheap insurance, top range edition £4,250 ono. 07118 341945.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC, 2008 Special Edition, 83k, metallic blue, MoT, alloys, excellent condition, looked after, £2,450 ono. 07475 980855.

FORD FOCUS 2.0GHIA 56reg 74,000 Miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, v6 car, long MoT, 5 door, £1,599. 07879 403032.



HYUNDAI i10 1.2 ACTIVE

63 reg, met black, 18,900k, FSH, AC, all electric windows, fogs, remote CL, rear parking sensors, £20 tax, 2.5 year balance of warranty, very good condition, private sale.

£4,950.

01952 728107.

MAZDA MX5 1600 CONVERTIBLE, 04 reg, 64,000 miles only, good condition, MoT, £2,795. Telephone 07864 842076.

MERCEDES C200 Kompressor Elegance, Auto, Estate, dark blue, MoT Oct 2, 2016, service history, £1,700. 01384 273177.

MINI COOPER S 2008, 125k, FSH, MoT, Blue, half leather, fully loaded, very clean, £3,995. 01384 439428, 07355 337167.

VAUXHALL CORSA VXR, 2007, blue, MoT till July, 25,500 miles, excellent condition, £5,750 ono. 01384 354109 or 07470 244100.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ESTATE 2011, 54k miles, grey metallic, electric windows, abs, air con, fish, full MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas, diesel, rear park sensors, 4 new tyres. £5,850 ono. 01902 664647.

VW FOX 09, 53,000 miles, 12 months MoT, immaculate, in yellow, lady owner, £2,495 ono. 01384 565140 or 07761 081577.

VW PASSAT 2.0 TDI, midnight blue, FSH, 58 reg, full leather, heated seats, Dab radio, great condition. £4,500 ono. 07734 441367.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 118 SE T reg, FSH, AC, alloys, heated seats, 93,000 miles, metallic blue, must be seen. £950 ono. 01746 781718

CITROEN PICASSO AUTO 06, 65,000 miles, 12 months MoT, clean inside and out. £1,250 ono. 07855 946489

CITROEN SAXO Furio, 1.4, 8 months MoT, blue, service history, 74,000 miles, new radiator and MoT, light metallic green, good condition. £575 ono. 07475 638786

FIAT PUNTO 2004, 5-dr, 1 previous owner, 81,000 miles, 12 months MoT, £795 ono. 07929 132885

FORD MONDEO 2005, 1.8 hatchback, 88,000 miles, 12 months MoT, £795 ono. 07891 534950.

HONDA CIVIC 1.7 CDTi, MoT, 103,644 miles, blue, 3-dr, EW, alloys, CD player, £1,200 ono. Please call 07958 428949.

HONDA JAZZ 1350, 02 plate, FSH, full new exhaust system, 11 months MoT, light metallic green, good condition. £580. 07865 290473.

MAZDA 3 2TS 5dr hatch, Titanium Grey, e/w, CD, radio, A/C, Alloys, E/M, long MoT, 58k, £2,580. 01384 401309 / 07739 837137.

MAZDA 323i 1997, 7 months MoT, clean car, £300. 01902 674562.

PEUGEOT 206 HDi D Turbo, 1997cc, 2002, 5dr, hatchback, all old MoT's, All paperwork from new. £495. 0121 408 1754.

PEUGEOT 206 HDi D Turbo, 1997cc, 2002, 5dr, hatchback, all old MoT's, All paperwork from new. £395. 0121 408 1754.

RENAULT CLIO 53 reg, 12 months MoT, 1 lady owner, 5-dr, 95k miles, black, good car, needs slight attention. £575. 07540 474922.

ROVER 75 Tourer, 03 reg, FSH, one owner from new, genuine 61,000 miles, immaculate condition. £1,495. 07956 670563.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXi, 1.2 2001, full MoT, service history, CD, PAS, beautiful condition, £550 ono. 01384 440258, 07355 337167.

VW GOLF 1.6 SE, 2002, part garaged, SH, 12 months MoT, new battery, red, excellent condition, 71k, £1,475 ono. 07974 282604.

classic cars

TRIUMPH TR7 CONVERTIBLE, MoT, silver blue monard hood, check interior, electronic ignition, CD player, excellent condition, £2,500 ono. 07877 536948.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition



Homer's Driving School, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris. 10 Hours £99! Five Hours £50! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS

MANUAL & AUTOMATIC ADV/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10 07432 458100 / 01562 870050 01384 234954 / 0121 5640090 01902 580065

www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS,

VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS

Tel: 01902 408176

1000's of parts available at all times

MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid EVL Registered Spares Always Available 0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash

Top prices paid. HP settled.

Buyer could call.

01562 711083 / 07831 245313

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemen's Club, 5* customer rated Mon-Fri 10-9pm, Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

ATTENTION LADIES 40-55.

Please don't pass this advert by, read on and see I'm a genuine guy.

52, slim, attractive, GSOH, romantic too, hoping for reply from a lady like you.

Box Number P20228, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOW

N/S, likes music, cinema, theatre, days out, holidays

including England and abroad, also cruising, would like to meet

Gentleman on his 70's to do these things with and hopefully

a relationship. Box Number C20226, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINCERE, CARING, EASY GOING, LOVING MALE, 60

WLTM female for friendship, leading to LTR if possible.

Box Number P20225, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement?

We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

MOVE YOUR MOTOR SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL



£47.00 PACKAGE INCLUDES

6 NIGHTS IN PRINT

1 WEEK ONLINE

AN INSERT INTO YOUR LOCAL CHRONICLES

PLUS 6 NIGHTS FREE IF YOU DO NOT SELL!

BOOK ON LINE - www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

EMAIL: marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10.2012. Private advertisers only.

Tel: 01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

£29.50 PACKAGE INCLUDES

6 NIGHTS IN PRINT. 1 WEEK ONLINE

AN INSERT INTO YOUR LOCAL CHRONICLES

PLUS 6 NIGHTS FREE IF YOU DO NOT SELL!

BOOK ON LINE - www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

EMAIL: marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

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Tel: 01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

ClassifiedAds

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£19.50 PACKAGE INCLUDES

6 NIGHTS IN PRINT. 1 WEEK ONLINE

AN INSERT INTO YOUR LOCAL CHRONICLES

PLUS 6 NIGHTS FREE IF YOU DO NOT SELL!

BOOK ON LINE - www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

EMAIL: marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10.2012. Private advertisers only.

Tel: 01902 317878

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LADY WHO WAS COUGHING

Outside Circle Post Office on

Wednesday, January 6.

Please get in touch with Man on

bicycle.

Box Number P20227, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MIDDLE AGED LADY

Would like to meet Female

Friends, for day trips, shopping, garden centres, etc.

Box Number P20222, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

PROFESSIONAL FEMALE 54

Looking for a professional male to a Degree Level who is

attractive, genuine and caring, enjoys quiet nights in, outdoor

life and holidays abroad.

Early 50's to mid 60's, who is caring, honest and respectable, must be willing to travel, for

Friendship or more.

Genuine replies only, previous responders need not write again thank you.

Box Number P20220, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINCERE, CARING, EASY GOING, LOVING MALE, 60

WLTM female for friendship, leading to LTR if possible.

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WIDOW

N/S, likes music, cinema, theatre, days out, holidays

including England and abroad, also cruising, would like to meet

Gentleman on his 70's to do these things with and hopefully

Drivetime



SsangYong driving towards 16 reg

SsangYong has announced an expanded PCP programme on selected Tivoli petrol and Korando diesel models, ahead of the arrival of the new 16 registration on March 1.

The contemporary SsangYong Tivoli B-segment SUV is available from SsangYong dealers with prices starting from just £12,950, while the new Giugiaro designed Korando 2.2 crossover is priced from just £15,995.

Commenting on these new PCPs, Paul Williams, chief executive officer of SsangYong Motor UK, said: "Sales of SsangYong cars increased considerably last year – in fact it was the second fastest growing franchise in the UK,

and the Tivoli and Korando did especially well. Both are well-built and comprehensively equipped, and at a price and warranty level no other brand can match. With these new PCPs from just £199 a month we are confident many more SsangYong cars will be sporting a new registration plate this year."

The Tivoli SE starts from just £12,950, and is powered by a 1.6 litre Euro 6 engine with manual transmission. Finished in a smart grey cloth trim, it includes 16" alloy wheels, cruise control, a stop/go system, Smart steering (normal, comfort and sport modes), an RDS/Bluetooth radio and seven airbags.

The EX adds the option of automatic transmission on the petrol powered car, grey or beige leather upholstery,

18" alloy Spiral wheels, dual zone climate control, 7" touch screen smart audio system with rear view camera, heated front seats, front fog lights and a luggage load cover.

Styling

The top of the range ELX is available with the choice of manual and automatic transmission, and features Diamond cut alloy wheels, a smart instrument cluster, smart keyless starting, front and rear parking sensors, privacy glass, rear spoiler, automatic headlamps, rain sensing wipers, full TomTom navigation system with 7" touch screen and rear view camera.

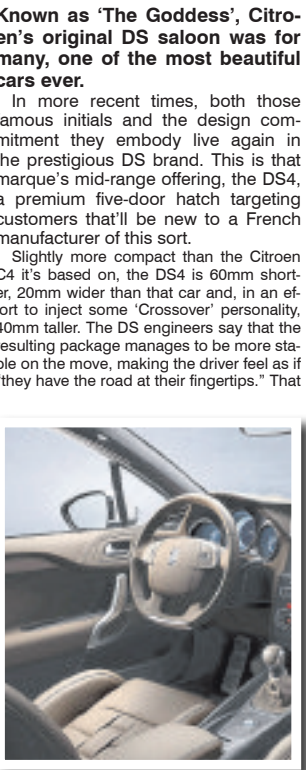
Designed by the Italian styling house, Giugiaro, the new

2016 Korando SE 2.2 starts from just £15,995 with 2-wheel drive (or £17,495 with 4-wheel drive), and is powered by the new 2.2 litre Euro 6 diesel engine with manual transmission. With its 2 tonne towing capacity making it especially well-suited to caravanners, the Korando represents superb value and is also extremely well equipped. The SE comes with smart cloth trim, electric windows, air conditioning, cruise control, 16" alloy wheels, an RDS/Bluetooth radio and six airbags. It also now includes roof rails, front fog lights and a rear parcel shelf as standard.

The PCP programme, which is being administered by SsangYong's finance provider GMAC, offers purchasers realistic deposits and highly competitive monthly payments.

INSIDE: WHAT THE DEALERS ARE OFFERING

Crossover personality



Known as ‘The Goddess’, Citroën’s original DS saloon was for many, one of the most beautiful cars ever.

In more recent times, both those famous initials and the design commitment they embody live again in the prestigious DS brand. This is that marque’s mid-range offering, the DS4, a premium five-door hatch targeting customers that’ll be new to a French manufacturer of this sort.

Slightly more compact than the Citroën C4 it’s based on, the DS4 is 60mm shorter, 20mm wider than that car and, in an effort to inject some ‘Crossover’ personality, 40mm taller. The DS engineers say that the resulting package manages to be more stable on the move, making the driver feel as if “they have the road at their fingertips.” That

ambition is backed up through the use of a MacPherson-type suspension set up at the front, and a flexible transverse beam at the rear, with hydraulic power steering.

The engine range is wide and flexible and all units meet the most stringent Euro6 emissions requirements. Most will choose a 1.6, with diesel drivers selecting between 120, 150 and 180bhp BlueHDi powerplants. The BlueHDi 180 model only comes with the brand’s EAT6 auto gearbox but its quite quick, making 62mph from rest in 8.6s.

Then there are three petrol options, with the entry-level PureTech 130 unit being a satisfying choice, despite its diminutive 1.2-litre capacity. It does, after all, make 62mph from rest in a reasonably fleet 10.1s en route to 123mph. If you need more poke, then the older 1.6-litre THP turbo petrol engines that the brand co-developed with BMW provide it. The THP 165 unit only comes with EAT6 auto transmission but you can order the THP 200 variant with a 6-speed manual ‘box. This latter variant is pretty rapid, making 62mph in 8.5s on the way to 146mph.

While it looks like a three-door coupe, this is in fact a genuine five-door hatch, an extremely attractive one at that! The panoramic windscreen extends backwards into the roof and the dimensions and its styling give the car a compact and muscular look. There’s a modest power bulge feel in the shape of the bonnet and further purposeful bulges over all four wheels, while a waist-height crease flows backwards from front arches which house wheels of up to 19-inches in size. The steeply raked roof drops away to the rear hatch with its subtle spoiler to give coupe-like sporty edginess.

Inside the luxuriously-trimmed cabin, the driver faces an array of smart chrome-rimmed dials and a sculpted, contoured dashboard. Premium touches include embossed leather



.....

While it looks like a three-door coupe, this is in fact a genuine five-door hatch, an extremely attractive one at that!

.....

door handles, plenty of chrome detailing and cool ambient lighting. Far more attention has been paid to build quality and refinement too, to match this up-market feel. Then there’s that panoramic windscreen, offering front occupants a 45-degree view upwards and giving the cabin a real feeling of light and airiness also enjoyed by those in the back seats. And talking of the rear, there’s proper space for two adults there – or three at a squish. Plus a boot behind of 370-litres, larger than that in rivals like VW’s Golf or Alfa Romeo’s Giulietta.


With DS4s being priced from around the £20,000 mark, this French contender isn’t cheap – but then neither is its value proposition. The beautifully-designed cabin is spacious, the engines efficient and powerful and the technology impressive. Here then, is a car that, for the price of something plush and ordinary, delivers the extraordinary. Just as DS models always have.

Price: £19,595-£22,595, on-the-road
Who to see: Call Lloyd James or any of the Citroën team on 01384 549760.


DS3 PureTech
82 Manual Dstyle

£199 Per Month

£199 Deposit




DS4 PureTech 130 S&S 6-speed Manual Prestige



DS5 BlueHDi 120 S&S
6-speed manual Elegance

£399 Per Month

£399 Deposit



Term of Agreement 37 Months	36 Monthly Payments of £289.00	Customer Deposit £289.00	Deposit Contribution £1,154.00	Total Deposit £1,443.00	On the Road Cash Price £20,745.00	Total Advance £19,302.00
Interest £0.00	Total Credit Charge £0.00	Final Purchase Payment £8,898.00	APR Representative 0.0%	Total Amount Payable £20,745.00	Annual Mileage 6,000	Excess Mileage Charge 9.6 pence per mile

Astra better in every way

The seventh generation version of Vauxhall's Astra family hatch manages to be sleeker, better equipped, more efficient and more spacious than its predecessor, while in some cases actually costing less than it did before

Think that sounds promising? Then like us, you might think that this could be the toughest rival yet for the segment-leading Ford Focus.

You know at first glance that this is a Vauxhall thanks to the latest take on the corporate grille, now flowing into headlights which come with the option of full LED technology. There's also the familiar 'blade' graphic stamped into the side of the body and rear lights that now spread into the tailgate like the smaller Corsa.

Inside, despite the reduction in exterior size, you get an additional 35mm of rear leg-room compared to the old car. Move up-front and there's the expected smarter fascia with splashes of chrome and the expected standard touchscreen infotainment screen that as usual reduces dashboard button clutter. For the first time, the General Motors 'OnStar' system is available, the set-up providing an in-car Wi-Fi hotspot, 24/7 assistance from a dedicated service team and the ability to call the emergency services if the airbags deploy.

Engine-wise, though the original 100PS 1.4-litre petrol unit remains from the previous range, much else is new. There's the 105PS 1.0-litre three cylinder turbo unit borrowed from the Corsa, plus 125PS and 150PS versions of a new direct injection 1.4-litre turbo powerplant too, plus a 1.6-litre 200PS version of this engine further up the range. Diesel buyers get 110PS, 136PS and 160PS 1.6-litre CDTi options. Go for the 1.6 litre CDTi 110PS diesel ecoFLEX model and you'll get a car capable of 91.1mpg on the combined cycle while emitting only 82g/km of CO2.

Prices start from just over £15,000 and range up to around £23,000 and there's the usual mainstream bodystyle choice of five-door hatch and estate. The MK6 model-based GTC coupe continues on in its older form. With the latest generation hatch and estate, there are five main trim levels - 'Design', 'Tech Line', 'Energy', 'SRI' and 'Elite'. Best of all, it's mainly British, with hatch and estate models built at Ellesmere Port near Liverpool.

● Who to see: T. Wall, Vauxhall, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford. DY6 8XB. Call 01384 288333.



For the first time, General Motors 'OnStar' system is available, the set-up providing an in-car Wi-Fi hotspot, 24/7 assistance from a dedicated service team and the ability to call the emergency services if the airbags deploy

TESTED

Vauxhall Astra range

Price: 5-door Hatch, £15,295-£23,520, on-the-road

Insurance: TBC

CO2: 82-146g/km

Performance: For 1.6 CDTi 110PS, 0-62mph 10.3s/ top speed 121mph

Fuel: For 1.6 CDTi 110PS ecoFLEX, 91.2mpg (combined)

Safety: Twin front side and curtain airbags, ABS.

The best new Vauxhall deals for March delivery

NU 16 REG

Corsa Limited Edition

VERY LIMITED OFFER



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£159

DEPOSIT | PER MONTH

£1000 MINIMUM PART EXCHANGE

4.1% APR

REPRESENTATIVE*

Vauxhall Corsa Hatchback
1.4 Limited Edition 3dr Representative example

On the Road Price	35 Monthly Payments	Customer Deposit	Deposit Allowance	Part-Exchange	Amount of Credit	Optional Final Payment	Total amount payable
£13,450.00	£158.58	£159.00	£1,300.00	£1,000.00	£10,992.00	£6,175.00	£14,481.30

Based on 5,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charged at 9p per mile. An Arrangement Fee and Credit Arrangement Fee of £149.00 is payable usually with the first and final payments respectively.

EXCLUSIVE TO YOUR BLACK COUNTRY VAUXHALL DEALERS

Halesowen Motor House

Dudley Rd, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3NH

0121 503 0001 www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk

T Wall Garages

High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford DY6 8XB

01384 288333 www.twall.co.uk

Stourbridge Motor House

High Street, Amblecote, Nr. Stourbridge DY8 4DG

01384 447970 www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk

Dudley Motor Company

Trindle Rd, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 7AY

01384 454100 www.dudleymotorco.co.uk



Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). VAUXHALL Corsa 3 Door Hatchback 1.4i 90PS Limited Edition with 17" wheels, M5: Urban: 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban: 65.7 (4.3), Combined: 54.3 (5.2). CO₂ emissions: 121g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. *Finance provided by GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT. Finance applicants must be 18 or over. Option 1 Pay final payment & keep the car. Option 2 - Return the car. Option 3 - Trade in against a new vehicle. *Insurance offer subject to eligibility, terms and conditions. All offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

Sportage prices revealed

Kia has just announced pricing and specifications for the fourth-generation of its best-selling model in the UK, the stylish Sportage crossover.

There are 18 variants on offer priced from just £17,995 on the road. For the first time GT-Line versions add an even more sporty flourish to the range, while the line-up is headed by the luxurious First Edition model, priced at £31,645. GT-Line models start at £24,350. The new Sportage is now on sale.

The new Sportage brings major advances in fuel efficiency, comfort, connectivity, convenience and safety. The acclaimed styling of a model which sells as much on its looks as on its practicality has been subtly modernised and every model benefits from a more premium look and feel to the interior.

There are now four engines and three transmissions with the introduction of a 1.6-litre T-GDi (turbocharged gasoline direct injection) unit and a 7DCT (seven-speed dual-clutch automatic) gearbox, both of

which are reserved exclusively for GT-Line. They join extensively re-engineered 1.6-litre GDi petrol and 1.7- and 2.0-litre turbodiesel power units with improved fuel economy and CO2 reductions of up to 29g/km, which means significantly lower company car tax for the Sportage's loyal business drivers.

The six trim lines are badged 1, 2, 3, 4, GT-Line and First Edition. All versions powered by the 1.6-litre GDi and 1.7-litre CRDi engines are front-wheel drive, while those powered by the 1.6-litre T-GDi unit and the two 2.0-litre CRDi diesels have all-wheel drive. Four-wheel-drive versions are distinguished by the 'KX' prefix in the model designation - except for GT-Line and First Edition versions.

Connectivity and advanced driver aids are a pre-requisite in any car these days, and the Sportage will not disappoint. All versions except the entry-level grade have a 7- or 8-inch touch-screen satellite navigation system linked to Kia Connected Services with TomTom®, providing full European mapping and detailed traffic, speed camera, weather and local services information. Up the range,



All versions are well equipped with an extensive package of comfort, convenience and safety items

speed limit information, lane keep assist, high beam assist, autonomous emergency braking and blind spot detection with rear cross traffic alert are available.

All versions are well equipped with an extensive package of comfort, convenience and safety items. Even 'base' model Grade 1/KX-1 comes equipped, with 16-inch alloy wheels and all-round disc brakes, a black diamond-mesh grille with chromed surround, front foglights, LED daytime running lamps, cornering lights, chrome-coated belt-line mouldings, smart black cloth upholstery with a grey head-

lining, electrically adjustable door mirrors, leather-trimmed steering wheel and gearshift, all electric windows, air conditioning, DAB radio, Bluetooth with music streaming, USB and AUX ports, 12-volt power outlet in front and rear, trailer stability assist, hill-start assist, downhill brake control and cruise control with speed limiter.

Who to see:

● Brindley Kia, 55 Penn Rd, Wolverhampton WV2 4WW. Call: 01902 508440.

● Brindley Kia, 85 New Road, Great Bridge, Tipton DY4 7BX. Call: 0121 629 0885

The All-New Sportage Made to Wow

4.9% APR
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Care-3

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T. 0121 629 0891

brindleykia.co.uk

• 55 Penn Road, Wolverhampton WV2 4WW

T. 01902 690633

brindleykia.co.uk

Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the All-New Kia Sportage range: Urban 28.2 (10.0) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 43.5 (6.5) – 67.3 (4.2), Combined 37.2 (7.6) – 61.4 (4.6), CO2 emissions 177 – 119g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Available between 05/02/16 and 31/03/16 inclusive. Available over 25, 31 & 37 months. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. Subject to status. T&Cs apply. 18s or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Model shown: All-New Kia Sportage 'GT-Line' 1.6 T-GDi 174bhp 6-speed manual (AWD). Offer not available with any other offer. Offers not available in The Isle of Man or Channel Islands. Retail sales only. Details correct at time of going to press. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk.

E L Bouts Motors Ltd trading as Brindley Kia Wolverhampton are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made.

An assured Suzuki Vitara

The Vitara, Suzuki's latest compact crossover, aims to build a lot of talent into four metres. With a choice of petrol or diesel, front or all-wheel drive and styling that's more assured than anything Suzuki has brought us before, it looks to be an extremely competitive proposition.

The mechanicals are shared as they are with the existing SX-4 S-Cross. That means buyers get to choose between either a 1.6-litre petrol engine or a Fiat-sourced 118bhp 1.6 diesel, both being offered in front or four-wheel drive guises. The petrol engine is fitted with a five-speed manual gearbox as standard, with an optional CVT transmission also offered.

Go diesel and you get a six-speed man-

ual 'box. The short overhangs will help with off-roading but ground clearance isn't that generous. The ALLGRIP four-wheel-drive transmission features an electronically controlled clutch pack, controlled by a four-position switch on the centre console.

Choose 'Auto' and it'll stick to driving the front wheels unless slip is detected, whereupon the rear wheels are pressed into action. 'Sport' diverts up to 20 per cent of torque to the rear wheels to give livelier handling. 'Snow' offers permanent four-wheel drive with the system choosing how much torque to split front and rear, while 'Lock' splits the torque equally between front and rear.

With tight proportions and a front end that has more than a hint of current Land Rover design about it, the Vitara is quite an assured piece of design work. There's also a blacked-out floating glasshouse, heavily sculpted flanks and a very neat tail-lamp finish. Buyers can also specify a rugged package which adds front and rear skidplates as well as additional body side mouldings.

Suzuki cabins have long been the marque's weak link but this latest Vitara shows the company pulling its socks up in terms of quality and the materials used. Okay, so the idea of body-coloured metal across the dash isn't a new one (some of you will recall the Fiat Coupe mining that trend way back in '93) but Suzuki also offers chrome around the gearlever and door trims and an analogue clock. It's by no means a large vehicle, breaking the tape at just over four metres long, but still features a features a sizable 375-litre boot. That's ample and very competitive against its rivals.

Who to see: Halesowen Motor House Suzuki, Dudley Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3NH. Tel: 0121 503 0000.



With tight proportions and a front end that has more than a hint of current Land Rover design about it, the Vitara is quite an assured piece of design work.

TESTED

Suzuki Vitara

Price: £13,999-£23,899 on-the-road

Insurance: tba

Performance: For the 1.6 diesel 4wd, 0-62mph 11.4 seconds. Max speed 112mph

Fuel: For the 1.6 diesel 4wd, 67.3mpg combined cycle

Emissions: 106-130g/km

Safety: Twin front and side airbags, ABS with EBD, traction and stability control



Way of Life!

THE ALL-NEW SUZUKI VITARA

FROM **£13,999***

Stunning design, rugged good looks and impressive features. The Vitara really is the SUV that has it all.

- Crossover with striking SUV styling
- ALLGRIP 4-wheel Drive technology**
- Advanced safety capability†

Contact Halesowen Motor House Today.

Request a Test Drive today: suzuki.co.uk/halesowenmotorhouse

Halesowen Motor House

Dudley Road Halesowen B63 3NH 0121 503 0001

Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Vitara range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 42.1-61.4 (6.7-4.6), Extra Urban 55.4-76.3 (5.1-3.7), Combined 49.5-70.6 (5.7-4.0), CO₂ emissions 131-106 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. Vitara range: *Vitara SZ4 1.6 Petrol Manual available at £13,999 to Vitara SZ5 1.6 DDIS ALLGRIP TCSS with Rugged Pack available at £23,149. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2016 to 31st March 2016 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. **SZ5 models only. †SZ-T and SZ5 models only. Model shown: Vitara 1.6 SZ4 available at £13,999 on the road. (Single-tone metallic paint available at an additional cost of £430, dual-tone paint available at an additional cost of £800.)



Tucson is ready to take on the crossover opposition



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i10 1.0 'S' 5 door

£7,995 + metallic paint **Saving £1,000** from OTR

- Central locking
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- Electric front windows
- £20 per year road tax



i20 1.2 75ps 'S' 5 door

£9,995 + metallic paint **Saving £1,000** from OTR

- Remote central locking
- Day light running lamps
- USB / AUX connectivity
- Hill start assist
- Electric front windows
- £30 per year road tax



i30 1.4 100ps 'S' Blue Drive 5 door

£12,995 + metallic paint **Saving £2,300** from OTR

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www.brindleyhyundai-wolverhampton.co.uk

www.brindleyhyundai-westbromwich.co.uk

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) - 78.5 (3.6), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) - 76.3 (3.7), CO₂ Emissions 231 - 84 g/km. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK, between 1st January and 31st March 2016, inclusive. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask us.

Until the arrival of this Tucson model, Hyundai's idea of a Qashqai-style family crossover model was encapsulated by its ix35. That car sold quite well but somehow, never quite captured the imagination of the buying public. The Tucson though, is a leaner, meaner-looking contender that might well catapult the Korean brand into credible contention in this important growing segment.

People have come to expect a lot when it comes to driving crossover cars. Although they want a lofty perch, they also want to feel like they could be driving a hatchback. The Tucson delivers exactly this blend of virtues, hence its very road-biased suspension set-up – and the overwhelming emphasis on two wheel drive models across the range.

All bases are covered when it comes to engines with a good selection of both petrols and diesels.

At the lower end of the range, there's a choice of a 132PS 1.6 GDi petrol or a 116PS CRDi 1.7 diesel.

Turbocharged

Move a little higher and you can upgrade to a turbo-charged 1.6 GDi with 177PS. Diesel fans will find a 2.0 CRDi with either 136PS or 185PS. If you want 4WD, then you'll need the turbo petrol or one of the 2.0-litre diesels.

The 4WD system is absolutely fine for slippery surfaces but it's not an out and out mud pluggier.

As usual with Hyundai models, there's the option of varying the feel of the steering feedback, via different modes.

With an imposing hexagonal grille and sleek Santa Fe-style headlights, the Tucson is a good looking crossover.

The wheelarches are pulled backwards which, along with the rising windowline and prominent creases in the flanks, adds some athleticism to the side profile.

The new Tucson is well equipped. Even base 'S' trim comes with kit like a DAB digital radio and Bluetooth connectivity, plus USB and AUX connections, 16" alloy wheels, air conditioning and auto headlights.

So, what do we have?

The tough looks of an SUV, the sensible practicality of a five-seater mini-MPV and the affordability of a family hatchback.

These are the facts behind a Tucson model so good that it'll attract many new buyers to the Hyundai brand.

Hyundai's new generation Tucson is nicely built, efficient to run and quite capable in 4WD form of getting everywhere any ordinary family driver might want to go.

More important will be this model's competitive pricing and lengthy warranty. It's a Hyundai of the modern era.

And that makes it a very impressive car indeed.

View and test drive the impressive Hyundai Tucson by visiting Brindley Hyundai at the following locations:

● Brindley Hyundai West Bromwich, Millenium Park, New Swan Lane, West Bromwich B70 0NR. Call: 0121 696 4460.

● Brindley Hyundai Wolverhampton, 55 Penn Road, Wolverhampton WV2 4WW. Call: 01902 310666.



Supermini Civic range well worth a lookover

The Honda Civic has come in for a much-needed once-over, getting restyling at the front and the rear, while the interior gets higher quality fitments and a 7-inch Honda Connect touch screen. There's a Sport trim level inserted into the range to bridge the gap to the turbocharged Type-R range-topper.

Let's make note that there are some things about the Civic that are really, really good. We don't think there's a better diesel in the whole supermini sector that the 120PS 1.6-litre diesel unit.

There's also an entry-level 1.4-litre petrol engine offered along with a 142PS 1.8-litre petrol powerplant. At the top of the range is the banzai Civic Type-R which features turbocharging for the very first time.

There have been a considerable number of exterior design tweaks to both the Civic hatch and Civic Tourer estate. In come revised headlight units with integrated daytime running lights and a more rakish front bumper assembly.

The Civic hatchback also features a slicker design for the rear bumper, side skirts, a rear spoiler finished in black, plus LED rear lamps. The Civic's 477-litre capacity remains the best in its segment.

Who to see:

● Brindley Honda in Wolverhampton, Cannock and West Bromwich. See more at: www.brindley.co.uk/honda

TESTED

Honda Civic range

Price: £16,470-£32,295 on-the-road

Insurance: 5E-17E (excluding Type-R)

CO2: For the 1.6 diesel, 94g/km

Performance: For the 1.6 diesel, 0-62 10.5 seconds. Top speed 129mph

Fuel: For the 1.6 diesel, 78.5mpg combined cycle

Safety: ESP stability control, traction control, ABS with EBA & EBD, twin front, side, and curtain airbags

The improved, smarter and more affordable Honda Civic might just be at its best in sleek Tourer guise. With a class-best 642 litres of luggage room with the rear seats in place and the cleverest seat folding system in the business, it's well worth a look.

The interior boot floor of the Civic Tourer has been raised compared to the hatchback to create a completely flat area when the seats are folded down. The rear seat cushions can also be flipped up to reveal ample floor space for carrying tall objects.

A 60:40 split in the seat base offers even more options for carrying both people and cargo and provides an alternative load area if access via the tailgate is limited. There is also a very handy hidden compartment perfect for storing the tonneau cover when it is not needed.

Furthermore, there is additional under floor storage in the boot which makes carrying tall objects in the boot easy, plus the height of the loading lip has been reduced by 137mm compared to the Civic hatchback. It's all been very well thought through, and it makes for an effective and desirable estate.

Who to see:

● Brindley Honda in Wolverhampton, Cannock and West Bromwich. See more at: www.brindley.co.uk/honda

TESTED

Honda Civic Tourer range

Price: £18,585-£27,030

Insurance: 15-17

CO2: 99-155g/km

Performance: For the 1.6 i-DTEC, 0-60mph in 10.3 seconds. Top speed 121mph

Fuel: For 1.6 i-DTEC, 74.3mpg in combined cycle

Safety: ESP stability control, traction control, ABS with EBA & EBD, twin front, side, and curtain airbags



SAVE OVER £4,000

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CIVIC's



Civic I.8 SE Plus 5dr

FROM £16,499

SAVE OVER £4,000

- 17" alloys
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Fiesta smarter all round

The Ford Fiesta has always been a vehicle the British public has warmed to but the truth is that before this seventh generation model arrived, supermini buyers chose this car either because it was great to drive or because they'd been offered a deal too good to turn down.

This latest model changed all that – and this one takes things a step further still, smarter to look at, smarter to sit in, smarter to operate and, perhaps most importantly, smarter under the bonnet.

The engine line-up starts with the older generation 1.25-litre petrol unit, offered with either 60 or 82PS.

To get beyond these and get yourself one of the clever new 1.0-litre petrol engines or the base 1.5-litre TDCi diesel, you need a

slightly plusher trim level. And that means you'll need to have somewhere between £13,000 to £14,000 to spend, depending on the model you're looking at. In terms of the 1.0-litre petrol powerplants, the 100PS EcoBoost is well worth the £500 premium over the 80PS unit.

While if you're looking for a diesel, it's worth considering the £1,200 premium to go from the 75PS 1.5-litre TDCi to a 95PS 1.6-litre TDCi variant that features more frugal ECOnetic technology.

Variations on the Fiesta theme may come and go but before driving any version of Ford's definitive supermini, there's one thing you almost always know for certain: that it'll be a great steer.

There's a deftness to the way this car responds, an agility to the way it nips around the bends that no other small car can quite match.

Aspirated

With the 1.25-litre 60 and 82PS petrol engines sitting at the bottom of the line-up, it's best to get beyond them and reach for the state-of-the-art powerplants based around an award winning three cylinder 1.0-litre unit offered in a trio of different guises.

Most affordable is a normally aspirated 80PS 1.0 Ti-VCT unit but for only a few hundred pounds less than the version of this 1.0-litre engine I'd really point you towards the quicker 100PS turbocharged EcoBoost unit.

It's also offered with 125PS, but only in the pricier trim levels. No, the 100PS variant is all you really need, spiriting you to sixty in 11.2s to the accompaniment of a buzzy but far from unpleasant three cylinder thrum.

There are other petrol options in this Fiesta line-up such as the 1.6-litre options, but



.....
There's one thing you almost always know for certain; that it'll be a great steer

they're probably of minority interest there's an older 105PS unit that only comes with the Powershift twin-clutch automatic transmission, while at the other extreme, there's the 180PS 1.6-litre EcoBoost turbo powerplant for the hot hatch ST shopping rocket model.

That only leaves the 75PS 1.5 and 95PS 1.6-litre TDCi diesel units, engines you're really going to have to want to choose them over the EcoBoost petrol powerplants.

Who to see: Call any of the sales team on 01384 288333

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Official Fuel Consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Fiesta range: urban 33.6-76.4(8.4-3.7), extra urban 62.8-91.3(4.5-3.1), combined 47.9-35.6(5.9-3.3). Official CO2 emissions 85-133 g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience. Retail only. Finance subject to status. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Freepost Ford Credit. Subject to availability at a Ford Authorised Dealer for new vehicles contracted between 08.02.2016 – 31.03.2016 and registered between 08.02.2016 – 31.03.2016. ^Deposit Allowance available when financed with Ford Credit. Excludes Studio, Zetec S and ST. T Wall Garages acts as a credit broker in relation to finance products and not a lender.

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We look forward to welcoming you to the new Startin Honda dealership in Stourbridge soon.



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Swim club produces a whose host of winners

HALESOWEN swimmers competed at the Worcester County Championship over three weekends during January and February and produced impressive performances in the pool.

Some 49 swimmers from the club competed in more than 250 events with 24 swimmers going on to complete 97 swims in age group.

The club's swimmers produced eight senior and two junior county titles and with 14 age group event winners, the Halesowen swimmers enjoyed a very successful championships.

Stand-out Halesowen performers were Josh Bradley winning seven senior titles, Calum Tinsdale winning one senior title and both James Cuthbert and Jack Simpson each grabbing a junior title.

Medley

In the age groups, Josh Bradley was outstanding across the two main weekend championships, winning titles in 50m and 100m butterfly, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, 100m and 200m individual medley.

Calum Tinsdale won the 50m freestyle event, James Cuthbert the 50m and 100m butterfly and the 200m freestyle, while Jack Simpson was first home in the 50m backstroke and freestyle and 100m individual medley.

In total 20 Halesowen swimmers also produced more than 130 qualifying times for the Midland Regional Championships in May and June.

Particular mention goes to Josh Bradley for setting championship best performances in the 100m butterfly and 100m individual medley.

Still chance to net tickets for Davis Cup tie

BIRMINGHAM'S Barclaycard Arena is finalising last minute plans for the so-called World Cup of Tennis, the Davis Cup.

The GB team will be returning to start the defence of the title against Japan in the World Group first round, from March 4-6.

This will be the first meeting between Great Britain and Japan since 1931.

Phil Mead, managing director of the Barclaycard Arena said: "It is with great pleasure we welcome Leon Smith and his side to the Barclaycard Arena.

"Our events and sales teams are working closely alongside The International Tennis Federation to deliver an exceptional opening round."

Tickets can still be bought at www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

Gordon plays weighting game



West Bromwich fighter Matt Gordon

WEST Bromwich's Matt Gordon is dealing with an unfamiliar weight problem for professional boxers coming up to fight night – he's struggling to put enough of it on!

Gordon, aged 31, undertakes his third outing in the heavyweight division at Walsall Town Hall next Friday. But having gone past his desired target, Gordon now plans to pile on the weight by piling high his plate before gobbling up a hat-trick of paid victories.

Extensive work with his fitness

coach Mark Richards and former pro footballer Justin Richards, now playing at part-timers Stourbridge, have paid off more than ever.

Former Mixed Martial Arts fighter Lukas Horak will have to match his hunger.

Gordon said: "I like to be around 16-and-a-half stone to fight, but I've been coming in just above 16st in my fights so far. I've been losing weight because I've upped the training, so I've had to up the calories, too." Top of the bill will see Halesowen's Len-

nox Clarke, 24, get back into title contention against Richard Horton.

The 'Undeclared' bill, promoted by Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing and Hatton, has eight unbeaten fighters on the card.

Hatton will lead Wednesbury's Sam Evans, Pauly Upton, Reuben Arrowsmith and Nathan Gorman into battle. Gordon's Sandwell cohort Manny Zaber, from Old Hill, tackles Liam Richards. Stoke's Kieron McLaren completes the card at welterweight.

Belt up – four titles on line in Sam bout

FOUR belts could be on the line when Stourbridge's Sam Eggington takes top billing against Bradley Skeete in Birmingham next month.

It was announced in mid-January that Eggington will take on Skeete in the headliner at the Genting Arena on Saturday March 5, writes **Craig Birch**.

"The Savage" defends his British and Commonwealth welterweight titles against his mandatory challenger, on a Matchroom Boxing show live on Sky Sports.

And Eggington's WBC International Silver belt, along with Skeete's WBO European crown, could also be put up-for-grabs.

The contest will cross the promoters' divide, as Londoner Skeete, managed by Frank Warren, competes on a Matchroom show after Eddie Hearn won the purse bids.

It will now also be put to the British Boxing Board of Control that the WBC and WBO straps be involved in the bout, which was actually called for by Warren's representative Andy Ayling.

Eggington is aware the prospect of a Lonsdale belt fight against Frankie Gavin later in the year is also being risked. The 21-year-old said: "Bradley's not daft, he's a hard opponent, but I can't see him lasting the distance with me."

Mandatory

"He'll have to work hard for everything he gets against me. If I do what I need to, I will come out with the win and that will be my mandatory out of the way. After that, I want to go and win the belt outright."

Skeete's only pro defeat came at the hands of Gavin in November 2014, when both were under the Warren banner.

He said: "These are the fights I want to be in, at these big arenas headlining. I've come up short before, but I won't this time."

Essington's Ben Wilkes will undertake his step up elsewhere on the card and is the underdog against the all-action Cello Renda, in an eliminator for the English middleweight title.

Wilkes has nine wins from 10 from what has been a stop-start pro career since turning pro in 2009, and he's adamant he's got the skills to upset the form book. He said: "It's a big opportunity for me and he's going to get a shock."



Sam Eggington and challenger Bradley Skeete face up to their challenge in Birmingham

The 29-year-old spent nearly five years out of the ring after a third round TKO defeat to Janis Cernauskis.

Another major domestic title fight and two clashes for Midlands belts also appear, with both Yafai brothers in action. British champion Kal will tackle Moises Flores in an official 12-round eliminator for Kohei Kono's WBA super flyweight title. Younger sibling Gamal goes after his first domestic crown, challenging for Bobby Jenkinson's newly-won Commonwealth super bantamweight strap. A Battle of Birmingham will come at lightweight, as Michael Rooney and Marcus Ffrench meet for the vacant strap, while new Midlands titlist Karl Wiggins defends at welter for the first time against Derby's Ryan Fields.

Tickets are priced at £40, £60 and £100 from www.theticketfactory.com. VIP upgrades, at £150, can be bought exclusively at www.matchroomboxing.com

Chess club misses out on final slot to rivals

HALESOWEN Chess Club were defeated at the semi-final stage of the Humphreys Cup, allowing rivals Stourbridge to progress to the final. The competition is for players graded under 130. SCC were outgraded on every board, but not by much.

First to finish was SCC's Colin Woodall with a draw by repetition. Halesowen's board one then blundered and immediately resigned giving the win to Stourbridge's Jeremy Humphries. This meant only a draw was needed from one of the remaining two boards for Stourbridge to win on board count. Both games were drawn giving Stourbridge the match 2½-1½ and a place in the final.

SCC's Birmingham league division 3 team are in a relegation battle along with five others. They faced Redditch and drew the match.

Wednesday night in the Birmingham league saw Stourbridge's division 1 and 4 teams both playing and fighting relegation. The division one team self-destructed against title chasing Sutton Coldfield. The top two boards managed to draw but the remaining four players all lost.

The division 4 team's relegation fight looked even more difficult having scored just one point in eight matches and being three points adrift of safety with three matches remaining. But, they got their first win of the season, beating Redditch 4-2.

Stourbridge's four youngsters lost at Warley Quinbourne in Wolverhampton division 4 but Dan Arkell continued his good form with a perpetual draw against a much higher rated player.

Unwelcome Guest denies Tivi a victory

Goole AFC 2 Tividale FC2

TIVIDALE, having lost two experienced players in midweek, returned from the long trip to Goole with a share of the spoils – after conceding a last-gasp equaliser.

Defender Sam Brooks and forward Mark Danks left for Sutton Coldfield and Romulus respectively. Tivi were also without suspended full back Lewis Wright, but came up with a dogged performance and were seconds away from winning.

Against the run of play Tividale took the lead on 18 minutes through Demetri Brown.

The home side equalised on 22 through Aaron Moxam, but with seven minutes to go Tividale regained the lead through Chris Sterling. Deep into added time Goole snatched a point as Nick Guest levelled.

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At the Sharpe end for an evening with

BLACK Country man Lee Sharpe will finally come back 'home' later this month for an evening at Hednesford Town FC.

The 44-year-old Halesowen-born ex-footballer was due to be the feature attraction of an evening at Keys Park in December.

That was postponed but will now take place on Thursday February 25, where he talk about his career in the game and life after hanging up his boots.

The talented winger left home to join the youth set-up at Torquay before Manchester United came calling in 1988, the £200,000 transfer fee a British record for a YTS player at the time.

He spent eight years at Old Trafford and made 193 appearances, scoring 21 times, and was capped eight times at England Under-21 and full senior level.

He became Leeds' joint club-record signing in August 1996 when the Whites paid £4.5million for him, but injuries marred his career from then on.

He was loaned and then sold for just £250,000 to Bradford City in March 1999 and helped the club to the Premier League, before his release in 2002 after a spell at Portsmouth.

A brief time back in Devon at Exeter followed before a stint in Iceland at Grindavik, his playing days ending at non-league Garforth Town in 2004.

Sharpe has managed to spend some time in the public eye since, though, through such reality television shows as Dancing on Ice and Celebrity Love Island.

Standard tickets cost £20 and £30 with a photo, VIP passes - with a meet and greet and a seat on his table - are £40.

There will be a table buffet, raffle and live auction, with special deals available on a table of 10. There's no age restriction, with under-14 tickets £10.

Doors open for VIPs at 6.30pm and generally at 7pm. For more information, call event organiser Darren Ashmore on 07813 380 554 or go to www.dkapromotions.com.

Thirteen the lucky number as Badgers in resounding win

ASH Greaves was on target as Old Halesowians Men's hockey first team claimed a 1-1 draw against Telford & Wrekin last week. They entertain Sutton Coldfield this weekend.

The ladies first team won 2-0 at Bournville, with Suzanne Collins and Stacey Twist on target. They travel to Bromsgrove on Saturday.

Elsewhere last weekend, the men's seconds were on the wrong end of a nine-goal thriller, going down 5-4 to Stone. They are at Telford this weekend.

The men's thirds lost 3-1 to Stafford and entertain Bromsgrove on Saturday.

The men's fourths travel to Worcester this weekend on the back of a 1-0 reverse to Stratford.

There was a heavy defeat for the men's fifth team, 7-1 to Old Silhillian. They visit Worcester on Saturday.

The Badgers had a resounding 13-0 over Droitwich but are without a fixture this weekend.

Club's captain in fundraising drive



Bob Grindley, green jacket, with club members

STOURBRIDGE Golf Club's newly-appointed captain has pledged to take a swing at fundraising for Birmingham Children's Hospital charity to say thank you to the hospital's cardiac unit.

Bob Grindley, the club's Gentleman Captain, has selected Birmingham Children's Hospital as the club's charity of the year after both his children received life-saving heart surgery at the hospital. For the next two years, Bob and the club will raise as much as they can.

The 62-year-old father-of-two, whose children are now grown-up and enjoying full and active lives, said: "My wife Berni and I are extremely

Golf

grateful for everything the hospital has done for our family."

Daughter Donna, now 31, was the first to be admitted at four-years old. She was born with a hole in her heart and required an operation. At 16, an unusual sound in son Russell's heartbeat was identified as a leaking aortic valve. He is now 33.

Nancy Lillington, regional fundraiser at Birmingham Children's Hospital charity, said: "The money Bob hopes to raise over the next two years will make a huge difference."

LION TAMERS STAY IN HUNT

Old Hales 13 Peterborough Lions 5

HALES kept in touch for the play-offs after defeating their opponents from Peterborough in a rearranged fixture.

A pitch inspection by both sides and the referee was touch and go but the first team pitch was deemed playable.

Hales had driving wind and rain at their backs in the first half and soon took advantage, going 7-0 up thanks to a penalty try, converted by full-back Chris Hooper.

Peterborough's came back with strong forward play supported by the backs but the Hales defence was ferocious to keep the visitors out.

The terrible weather conditions didn't help handling, but both sides should be congratulated for running the ball on many occasions. After the visitors were penalised for infringement, Hooper kicked a penalty from 40m out wide against the driving wind and rain to stretch Hales lead at half-time.

Bundled

The break gave some respite with changed shirts for the home team. The rain continued as the crowd bundled together in the stand to share some protection.

Second row Loz Breese had to leave the field with a neck injury and was replaced by Owen Jones. He was then injured, shifting Ben Barkley into the pack and Jamie Keen coming into the backs with no replacements left.

The visitors seemed destined to score but could not overpower the Hales defence, until with two minutes they scored a well-worked try, unconverted.

However, more pressure in the dying minute saw the visitors penalised in front of the posts 30 metres out. Hooper converted for the final score with Hales coming out as worthy winners.

Director of rugby Gary Cox said: "This was never going to be a classic open running game in these conditions.

"The lads in defence were excellent to a man and have kept us in the hunt for the play-offs."

Old Hales travel to Sutton Coldfield on Saturday for a league fixture. Kick off 2.15pm.

Stour's poor run continues



Stourbridge's Nigel Mukarati takes the ball into contact at Broadstreet

Broadstreet 19 Stourbridge 12

IN a game played in a howling gale Stour were unable to shake off their poor run of form and slumped to their third successive defeat.

By dint of a losing bonus point and having played all their scheduled matches they ironically found themselves moving up to second place in the National 2N table.

Playing into the elements Stour received the kick off and immediately shipped a three-point deficit, Broadstreet outside half Lee Chapman bisecting the uprights when Stour failed to clear out the tackle area and were penalised.

Only 11 minutes in though, Stour took the

lead with a Joe Carpenter try converted by full-back Tom Mitchell.

The restart kick was fumbled though, a penalty award for offside followed and Chapman's boot landed another three points.

The lead then changed hands courtesy of Chapman's boot.

Some flimsy defending shipped a try to full-back Andrew Murray.

Stour conceded a soft try when the throw found no.8 Jack Gibbons who breezed through the undefended tail. Robbie Hurrell crashed over with five minutes left.

On Saturday, Stourbridge host basement side Huddersfield, 3pm ko.

Inexperience shows for lower order

Oldswinford (114-5) beat Enville B (68-3) by 46 runs

ENVILLE 'B' elected to bowl against a young Oldswinford side.

Harry Stanier opened the innings with Owen Williams and started well against an inexperienced Enville bowling attack, captain Stanier especially scoring freely and retiring within the first three overs.

Enville took their first wicket at 66 with Jono Howells stumping Dan Friel off Nick Hinsley. Oldswinford maintained the run rate while trying to get their captain back to the crease. On his return he continued his good form being run out for 39 in the last over.

Howells (25 no) and Hinsley set about Enville's reply in positive fashion until the latter was brilliantly caught one-handed by Mark Watts, who repeated the feat the very next ball taking the wicket of Tom Davies. After Howells had retired, the inexperience of the lower order began to show as they struggled to score runs and failed to get Howells back to the crease.

Pedmore (112-2) beat Swindon (95-4) by 17 runs

PEDMORE elected to bat and openers Dave Skelding and Matt Porter (25 no) looked to continue their free-scoring form.

They started well but lost Skelding run out for 10 in the fourth over. Old head James Burgoyne joined Porter and took up the mantle, out-scored him and retired on 28. Porter soon followed, the remaining batsman all contributed cameo innings.

In reply, Swindon lost both openers in three overs with a total at 17-2. Lee Passmore and Matt Fisher set about trying to chase down the Pedmore score but on their retirements the run rate fell and when later reunited at the crease, the task proved too much.

Yeltz defender Hull moves to Glassboys

STOURBRIDGE have completed the signing of central defender Joe Hull from rivals Halesowen Town.

The 24-year-old has has made 19 appearances in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division this season and featured 135 times in total for the Grove club.

Stourbridge, who signed Kristian Green and Tom Tonks from Yeltz last summer, swooped to bring in Hull after a seven-day approach was granted.

The Glassboys' FA Trophy third-round clash at Nantwich Town was postponed for a second time on Tuesday night. The winners have Dover Athletic or Guseley in the last eight.

★★★

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